

The Sporting News
ULTIMATE

PRO Football **SCOUTING GUIDE**

**A scout's-eye view
of the entire league**

**Over
1,800
players
evaluated**

- **Position by position, EVERY player is**
 - Broken down for strengths and weaknesses
 - Graded
 - Ranked

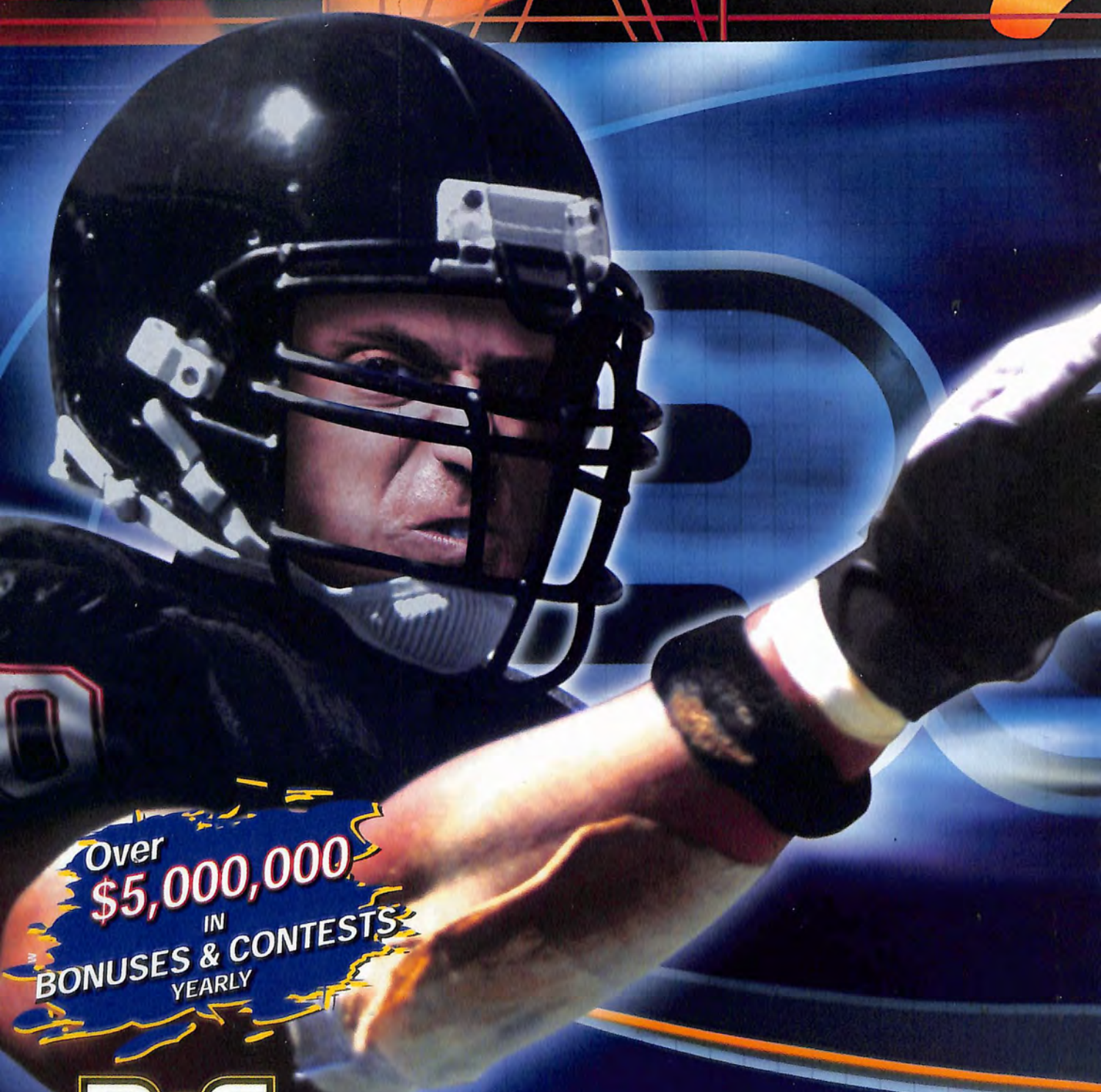
**Veteran
AND rookie
reports by
The War Room**
*TSN's exclusive
football scouting
service*



\$6.99 (\$8.99 CAN.) Display until Oct. 27, 2002



BETONSPO



Over
\$5,000,000
IN
BONUSES & CONTESTS
YEARLY

BoS

BoSCASINO.COM

MasterCard VISA Discover WU
VOID WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW

Bet Online

www.betonsports.com

Alternate Website: www.betonsports.co.cr

SPORTS.COM

WORLD'S LARGEST, LEGAL AND LICENSED SPORTSBOOK

Football Action

You can **bet** on!

All Sports Wagering Service.

- Free **20%** bonus upon sign – up.
- Over **\$1 million** paid out weekly.
- Over **\$1 billion** wagered annually!
- Over **\$5 million** free “give away” contests and bonuses yearly.
- 24 hours a day / 7 days a week service.
- Customer transactions are strictly confidential.



Bet over the phone

1-888-999-9BET (238)

Local Number: 011-506-2830561

The Sporting News

President & CEO
Executive VP, President, Radio
Senior VP, Editorial Director
Senior VP, Business Development
VP, Chief Legal Counsel
VP, IT, Emerging Technologies
VP & CFO
VP, Operations
VP, General Manager, Online
VP, Integrated Marketing & Sales
VP, Consumer Marketing
VP, Sales, Radio
VP, Publisher

James H. Nuckols
 Christopher J. Brennan
 John D. Rawlings
 Mike Dubester
 Christopher S. Canning
 Vladimir Edelman
 John Kastberg
 Kathy Kinkeade
 Jason Kint
 Stuart Marvin
 Paul Masse
 Bill Peterson
 Peter A. Spina

EDITORIAL Executive Editor: Bob Hille Director of Graphics: Fred Barnes Senior Managing Editors: Dale Bye, Bill Marx, Mike Nahrstedt Managing Editors: Paul Grant, Steve Greenberg, Stan McNeal Assistant Managing Editors: Dave Darling, Jim Gilstrap, Dan Graf, Carl Moritz, Barry Reeves, Benson Taylor Senior Editors: Don Armstrong, Chris Bergeron, David Bukovich, Tom Gatto, Anna M. Jones, Mike Kilduff, Dan Perkins, Brendan Roberts, David Srinivasan, George Winkler Projects Editor: Vinnie Iyer Community Editors: Chris Bahr, Tricia Garner Associate Editors: Marcus Carmouche, Matt Crossman, Carlyn Foster, Sarah Gage, Roger Kuznia, Jason Langendorf, Naila-Jean Meyers, Jeff Paur, Kathy Sheldon, Dave Sloan, Ray Slover, Kyle Veltrop Senior Writers: Paul Atner, Mike DeCourcy, Dennis Dillon, Dan Pompei, Ken Rosenthal Staff Writers: Sean Deveney, Tom Dienhart, Matt Hayes, Matt Pitzer Contributing Writers: Dave Kindred, Bill Minutaglio, Fritz Quidt, Lee Spencer Manager of Promotion and Editorial Administration: Lesley Hunt

BOOKS Editorial Director: Steve Meyerhoff Senior Editors: Joe Hoppel, Ron Smith Statistical Editor: Craig Carter Assistant Editor: David Walton

ART Creative Director: Bill Wilson Art Directors: Chris Callan, Jack Kruyne, Angie Pillman Graphics Designer: Chad Painter

PHOTO Chief Photographer: Albert Dickson Photo Editor: Paul Nisely Staff Photographers: Bob Leverone, Robert Seale

ONLINE General Manager/Fantasy Sports: Erik Barmack Executive Producer: Beth Jatcko Producer: Matt Judkins Technical Managers: Keith Camden, Teresa Miller Marketing Manager: Jason Stone Stats Manager: Tim Boughton DBA: Corey Herbel Programmers: Tim Chamberlain, Doug Dwyer, Frank Gallion, Darin Kelkhoff, Jeffrey West Web Developers: Kris Bushong, Aaron Ellis, Jay Little, Chris van Benthuyssen Administrative Coordinator: Teri Null

RESEARCH CENTER Senior Managing Editor: Steve Gietschier Senior Editor: James R. Meier Photo Sales: Bob Mayhall

PRODUCTION Prepress Director: Bob Parajon Production Director: Marilyn Kasal Director, Information Systems: Terry Shea Distribution Manager: Steve Guthrie Prepress Manager: Russ Carr Art Director, Special Projects: Michael Behrens Network Administrator: John Ricks Senior Technical Support Specialist: Erik Johnson Ad Production Coordinator: Dee Dee Douglas Prepress Specialists: David Brickey, Steve Romer, Pamela Speh Prepress Operations Coordinator: Vern Kasal Production Artist: Christen Sager Graphics Designer: Matt Kindt

CONSUMER MARKETING Director: Kimberly G. Morgan Managers: Karina Medina, David Olesnevich Assistant Manager: David Roach

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT Director: Adam London Manager: Joey Shammah

MEDIA RELATIONS Marty Appel Public Relations

HUMAN RESOURCES Director: Kathie McCloskey Payroll/HR Coordinator: Lisa Vahle

SALES DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING Director: Michael Dittelman Associate Marketing Director: Deana Ambrosio Sales Development Manager: Suzanne Krusinski Research Manager: Latha Sarathy

ADVERTISING SALES OFFICES

VP, Associate Publisher, Online: Paul D. Rothkopf

New York Main Number 646-424-2200, Fax 646-424-2232
 Rich Bodmer, Online 646-424-2233, John Ferris, 646-424-2221
 Sheri Grossman, 646-424-2225, Steve Kennedy, 646-424-2249
 Office Manager: Lisa Arcati, 646-424-2207

Chicago Jon Nelson, 312-644-6448, Fax 312-644-6145

Detroit Jim Plagens, 248-637-3008, Fax 248-637-3029

Los Angeles VP, Western Manager: James Souders

Main Number 310-315-4396, Fax 310-315-4397
 Matt Estrada, 310-664-3571

Southeast Charles Alexander, 404-327-5670, Fax 404-327-5671

Southwest Dan Kellner, 972-529-9687, Fax 972-529-9688

RETAIL SALES Newsstand Director: Rick Ivonavitch Sales Director, Books: Dave Weiner

LETTER FROM THE SENIOR MANAGING EDITOR

Did you know that Jevon Kearse is limited by the lack of a second pass-rush move?

That Sam Madison benefits from his ability to read the quarterback's eyes?

That Marcellus Wiley takes himself out of too many plays by being overaggressive?

That Jeff Garcia can pass effectively while rolling to either side?

That, even when healthy, Fred Taylor struggles to pick up the blitz?

Well, neither did I—until I started reading this magazine. It was at that point I realized how much more there is to know about football players than simply, "Larry Allen is a great guard." If you're a serious fan, you want to know *why*. With this magazine in hand, you do.



Horton

The *Ultimate Pro Football Scouting Guide*, the newest addition to THE SPORTING NEWS' line of yearbooks, is a scouting manual, plain and simple. It's a compilation of the same type of information that NFL scouts provide for their teams—strengths, weaknesses and tendencies of virtually every player in the league.

Is a wide receiver a good route runner but a weak blocker? How well does an offensive tackle block in the open field? Does a cornerback's hip movement allow him to turn and run with a receiver? It takes a trained eye and the commitment to break down film of each player to identify the details that separate a great player from a good or marginal one.

It takes The War Room.

Headed by former NFL scout Gary Horton, The War Room is a football scouting service that provides exclusive content to THE SPORTING NEWS. (See page 8.) If the scouts at The War Room aren't locked in a room watching game film—or even *practice* film (I'm not kidding)—then they're at a game scouting players or they're on the phone talking to coaches and NFL personnel officials. They're just like any NFL team's scouting department, except they write for fans like you, not the private files of their employer.

"It's exciting to bring fans into the world of scouting departments," Horton says. "In this book, we provide more depth and insight on individual players than any that has ever gone on the newsstand."

The *Scouting Guide*, written entirely by The War Room, is nothing fancy. It's a breakdown of every player in the league—at least all those we could identify as likely NFL players heading into training camp in July. Each player is graded, ranked and analyzed. It's great analysis heading into a season, but even more valuable in the middle of one.

"A fan can refer to this magazine if his team acquires a new player or if a guy emerges that he doesn't know much about," Horton says. "You can use this book as your reference guide all season."

Our association with The War Room began with the 1999 *Pro Football Draft Guide*, and it has blossomed into a year-round relationship that encompasses the weekly magazine, yearbooks, website (sportingnews.com), Fantasy Source (fantasy.sportingnews.com) and Sporting News Radio. Together, we're relentless in our coverage of the NFL.

As was the case with the *Draft Guide*, we undoubtedly will find ways to improve the *Scouting Guide* the second time around. I welcome your input. In the meantime, I wish you the best as you relax and absorb the kind of scouting insights that once were off-limits to all but a select few.

"I would love for the fan who buys this guide to walk away from the newsstand feeling like he just took it off Jon Gruden's desk," Horton says. "But if I know Jon Gruden, he'll have two of these guides—just in case one of them comes up missing."

Mike Nahrstedt

You can write Mike Nahrstedt at mnahrstedt@sportingnews.com or at 10176 Corporate Square Dr., Suite 200, St. Louis, MO 63132.

Contents

The War Room's Top 200	4
How the players are graded	8
Quarterbacks	10
Running backs	22
Fullbacks	32
Wide receivers	38
Tight ends	53
Offensive tackles	61
Guards	71
Centers	81
Defensive ends	88
Defensive tackles	100
Inside linebackers	113
Outside linebackers	120
Cornerbacks	131
Safeties	145
Specialists	156
Player index	165

The War Room's TOP 200

Specialists and rookies are not included in the rankings. Specialists—kickers, punters, return men and long snappers—are ranked at their positions beginning on page 156. Rookies are ranked separately at each of their positions based on college grades. The War Room does not assign a player a pro grade until he has played one season in the league.

1. Marshall Faulk, RB, Rams

The most productive and versatile back in the league, Faulk has set the standard for all-purpose running backs with his big-play abilities and rare vision.

2. Brian Urlacher, MLB, Bears

He has the speed to make plays from sideline to sideline in the running game, is explosive when blitzing the quarterback and shows rare athletic ability in coverage.

3. Orlando Pace, LT, Rams

Amazingly athletic for his size, Pace is a shutdown tackle who can move the pile, make the tough block in space and redirect in pass protection.

4. Brett Favre, QB, Packers

Improved patience by Favre limited his interceptions to 15 last season. He should continue to benefit from an effective running game while looking for vertical-threat wide receiver Terry Glenn off play action.

5. Michael Strahan, DE, Giants

The versatile Strahan, who broke the single-season sack record in 2001, shows exceptional closing speed, uses a variety of pass-rush moves and does a great job of playing with leverage in the running game.



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

11. Marvin Harrison, WR, Colts

Harrison, who had another impressive Pro Bowl season in 2001, is elusive with great acceleration after the catch and an ability to change directions in the open field.

12. Tony Gonzalez, TE, Chiefs

The best receiving tight end in the league, Gonzalez possesses the combination of athletic ability and speed to cause all kinds of matchup problems.

13. Randy Moss, WR, Vikings

As if his size and deceptive speed don't present enough problems for defenders, Moss will be an even bigger challenge this season because he will line up all over the field and run a variety of routes.

14. Sam Madison, CB, Dolphins

This elite cover corner was slowed by a shoulder injury in 2001 but should be healthy, aggressive and physical again this season.

15. Curtis Martin, RB, Jets

Martin, who remains the focus of the Jets' offense, had a career season in 2001 and should be fresh this season, with backup LaMont Jordan rotating in occasionally.

16. Champ Bailey, CB, Redskins

An elite shutdown corner, Bailey can run with any receiver in the league and almost is unbeatable when focused.

17. Brian Dawkins, FS, Eagles

Dawkins is an integral member of the Eagles' aggressive

defensive scheme because of his ability to blitz and cover man to man.

18. Chris Samuels, LT, Redskins

He has impressive strength, quickness and agility. He has taken over as one of the leaders up front for the Redskins.

19. La'Roi Glover, DT, Cowboys

Glover brings one-gap quickness to Dallas' defense. He will penetrate, make plays in the backfield and force quarterbacks to get rid of the ball quickly.

20. Donovan McNabb, QB, Eagles

Known for his arm strength and exceptional feet, McNabb became the leader of the Eagles' offense in 2001 and improved his ability to handle pressure situations.

21. Torrey Holt, WR, Rams

Holt is the best deep threat in the Rams' wide-open passing attack. He finishes every route he runs, which puts him in great position to make blocks downfield.

22. Zach Thomas, MLB, Dolphins

He more than makes up for his lack of ideal size and speed with his elite instincts, ability to read and react quickly and penchant for delivering the big hit.

23. Derrick Brooks, OLB, Buccaneers

Brooks is one of the best cover linebackers in the league and does a great job of running down plays from behind.

24. John Lynch, SS, Buccaneers

The leader of the Bucs' secondary, Lynch is a physical,

6. Kurt Warner, QB, Rams

The ultimate field general for the "Greatest Show on Turf," Warner played with a nagging thumb injury in 2001 but still won his second MVP title in three seasons.

7. Edgerrin James, RB, Colts

Few backs combine speed and power as well as James, who should bounce back strong this season after having season-ending knee surgery in 2001.

8. Charles Woodson, CB, Raiders

An exceptional all-around athlete, he proved how tough he is in 2001 when he played most of the season with a turf toe injury and made his fourth consecutive Pro Bowl.

9. Ray Lewis, ILB, Ravens

Although he still has elite instincts, great quickness and unparalleled intensity, Lewis no longer is protected by an immense defensive line and may not be quite as productive in the Ravens' new 3-4 scheme.

10. Jevon Kearse, DE, Titans

An incredibly talented physical specimen, Kearse is at his best rushing the passer and chasing plays down from behind, but he continues to be limited by an inconsistent supporting cast.

aggressive player who creates havoc whether he's in coverage, playing the run or blitzing.

25. Terrell Owens, WR, 49ers

Owens might be the most physical wideout in the NFL, and he has an incredible work ethic on the field.

26. Jeff Garcia, QB, 49ers

This undersized but mobile playmaker has gone to back-to-back Pro Bowls and continues to amaze with his production and durability.

27. Corey Dillon, RB, Bengals

This premier back continues to produce against some of the league's best run defenses because of his aggressive running style. He has rushed for no fewer than 1,129 yards in each of his five NFL seasons.

28. Antoine Winfield, CB, Bills

Although undersized, Winfield throws his body around against the run and uses sound coverage techniques to shut down receivers.

29. Olin Kreutz, C, Bears

The Bears solidified their line when they re-signed Kreutz in the offseason. Although undersized, he shows rare quickness and athletic ability for an offensive lineman.

30. Shaun Williams, SS, Giants

A fierce run defender who made some mental mistakes at free safety in 2001, Williams has moved to strong safety, which is a better fit for his skills.

31. Warren Sapp, DT, Buccaneers

He is a high-motor player who can rush the passer, stack and shed blocks vs. the run and chase down plays.

32. Isaac Bruce, WR, Rams

An elite route runner, Bruce compiled more than 1,000 yards receiving for the third straight year in 2001.

33. Shannon Sharpe, TE, Broncos

It shouldn't take Sharpe long to readjust to the Broncos' scheme. He will be a valuable option for quarterback Brian Griese.

34. Keyshawn Johnson, WR, Buccaneers

He remains one of the elite receivers in the NFL though he didn't catch a TD pass last year. Coach Jon Gruden will make Johnson's red-zone contributions a priority.

35. Keith Brooking, MLB, Falcons

Brooking turned in a Pro Bowl performance when he moved inside last year. He shows tremendous speed and can make plays from sideline to sideline.

36. Ahman Green, RB, Packers

He accounted for an amazing 1,981 total yards from scrimmage in 2001. The Packers will continue to devise new wrinkles to utilize the explosive Green.

37. Darren Sharper, FS, Packers

Sharper has been used more often as a blitz, where he creates havoc, but he still plays center field as well as any free safety in the league.

38. Jason Taylor, DE, Dolphins

No longer a one-dimensional edge rusher, Taylor has improved his ability to play the run.

39. Lawyer Milloy, SS, Patriots

Milloy looks to knock receivers down instead of making the interception, and he's excellent in run support.

40. Ahmed Plummer, CB, 49ers

He started to emerge as a playmaker in 2001, his second season, showing impressive recognition skills.

41. Eric Moulds, WR, Bills

Moulds lacked overall production in 2001, but quarterback Drew Bledsoe should take better advantage of Moulds' speed, strength and crisp route running.

42. LaVar Arrington, OLB, Redskins

This emerging star has unfathomable physical attributes and will make big plays all over the field.

43. Jonathan Ogden, LT, Ravens

Ogden possesses amazing balance and footwork for his size; he has the long arms to ride defenders past the pocket in pass protection.

44. Kevin Mawae, C, Jets

Relentless, powerful and aggressive, Mawae is the leader of the Jets' line and never stops working to sustain and finish his blocks.

45. Ruben Brown, G, Bills

A Pro Bowl selection for the sixth straight time in 2001, Brown excels as a run blocker but may be somewhat overrated and does not have ideal athletic ability.

46. Marcus Pollard, TE, Colts

His combination of size and athleticism makes him a nightmare for linebackers and safeties in coverage. Pollard also is a solid blocker.

47. David Boston, WR, Cardinals

He is built like a tight end but can run like an undersized receiver, which enables him to stretch defenses and make big plays downfield.

48. Peyton Manning, QB, Colts

A master of the play-action pass, Manning tried to do too much in 2001 and was intercepted 23 times. With the return of running back Edgerrin James, Manning should bounce back strong this season.

49. Tra Thomas, LT, Eagles

Thomas excels in pass protection, showing the ability to mirror and slide vs. quicker edge rushers, and he continues to improve as a run blocker.

50. Ron Stone, G, 49ers

A huge free-agent acquisition for the 49ers, Stone is one of the best run blockers in NFL; he has great power and an explosive punch at the point of attack.

51. Willie Anderson, RT, Bengals

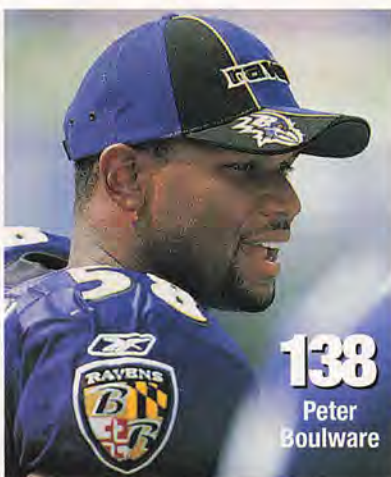
A dominating force in the running game, Anderson could be a Pro Bowl player every year if he had a more intense work ethic and improved his conditioning.

52. Rod Smith, WR, Broncos

Smith is consistently one of the top statistical receivers in the NFL and that didn't change last season despite an injured ankle and without complementary receiver Ed McCaffrey to divert attention.

53. Larry Allen, G, Cowboys

Signed to a multiyear contract in the offseason, Allen is one of the most powerful blockers in the NFL.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

54. Anthony McFarland, DT, Buccaneers

He was the Bucs' most consistent defensive lineman in 2001, but they want more big plays from him.

55. Tarik Glenn, LT, Colts

He has impressive athletic ability for his massive size and does an excellent job of bending at the knees and redirecting in pass protection.

56. Ricky Williams, RB, Dolphins

He gets the tough yards after contact and wears defenses down in the fourth quarter. He'll be an important piece of the puzzle for Miami's offense this season.

57. Hugh Douglas, DE, Eagles

One of the best edge rushers in the NFL, Douglas has matured into a leader and an every-down player. He displays explosion and good leverage vs. the run.

58. Troy Vincent, CB, Eagles

Although he has lost a bit of speed with age, Vincent still has the knowledge and technique to be effective.

59. John Abraham, DE, Jets

Abraham emerged as an elite edge rusher in 2001. He has the burst and quickness to run by most offensive tackles and has improved his technique against the run.

60. Aeneas Williams, CB, Rams

With class, leadership and consistency, Williams helped turn what was a woeful defense in 2000 into a Super Bowl-worthy unit last season.

61. Corey Simon, DT, Eagles

This one-gap, penetrating tackle has excellent speed, athletic ability and quickness but must improve his durability.

62. Randall Godfrey, MLB, Titans

Although slowed by injuries in 2001, Godfrey is extremely effective and the anchor of the Titans' defense.

63. Steve McNair, QB, Titans

He compiled impressive numbers in 2001 despite fighting injuries and playing in a conservative offense. He should benefit from the return of a healthy Eddie George.

64. Matt Birk, C, Vikings

A former sixth-round draft pick who made the Pro Bowl in 2000 and 2001, his first two seasons as a starter, Birk is extremely smart and rarely misses an assignment.

65. Joey Porter, OLB, Steelers

Excellent closing speed allows Porter to run sideline to sideline, apply pressure as a pass rusher and cover backs and tight ends in passing situations.

66. Robert Porcher, DE, Lions

This explosive pass rusher has had double-digit sack totals in five of the last six seasons. Although he's 33, his athletic skills are at a peak.

67. Joe Johnson, DE, Packers

Johnson sheds blocks quickly in the running game, is effective rushing the passer and will benefit from a rotation that should keep him fresh throughout games.

68. Kyle Turley, LT, Saints

Some crazy antics and numerous penalties clouded an otherwise impressive 2001 for Turley, who moves to the left side because Willie Roaf was traded to the Chiefs.

69. Kendrell Bell, ILB, Steelers

One AFC pro personnel director said Bell was one of the best rookies he'd seen come into the league in a while. Bell did something big almost every game en route to winning defensive rookie of the year.

70. Jeremy Newberry, C, 49ers

He plays with a mean streak, likes to overpower defenders in the running game and takes great angles to his blocks.

71. Walter Jones, LT, Seahawks

Although not quite a sound technician, Jones makes up for his deficiencies with incredible natural athleticism, good size and excellent overall strength.

72. Anthony Simmons, OLB, Seahawks

One of the best-kept secrets in the NFL, Simmons has been a sideline-to-sideline force, averaging 135 tackles over the last two seasons.

73. Jeremiah Trotter, MLB, Redskins

A relentless, physical, every-down player, Trotter brings a run-stuffing mentality to an already strong linebacker corps in Washington.

74. Jimmy Smith, WR, Jaguars

Even without counterpart Keenan McCardell, Smith will rank near the top of the NFL in receptions.

75. Freddie Jones, TE, Cardinals

Nagging injuries slowed Jones in 2001, but he is fast, strong, adept as a receiver and adequate as a blocker.

76. Tony Boselli, LT, Texans

Boselli is among the elite offensive linemen because of his power and athletic abilities. But he has been unable to stay healthy in recent seasons, and durability is a concern.

77. Marty Booker, WR, Bears

He was a big factor for the Bears in 2001 and should increase his production this year because of an improved receiving corps and excellent quarterback depth.

78. James Williams, RT, Bears

The cornerstone of the Bears' running game, "Big Cat" engulfs defenders with his size and wide wingspan.

79. Dexter Coakley, OLB, Cowboys

The Cowboys' best linebacker, Coakley lacks ideal size but uses his speed to make plays all over the field.

80. Ty Law, CB, Patriots

In 2001, he regained his confidence and skills that were missing the previous two seasons.

81. Priest Holmes, RB, Chiefs

Holmes runs extremely hard and has adequate elusiveness. Expect the Chiefs to find more ways to use him, including an expanded role in their passing game.

82. Fred Beasley, FB, 49ers

A steady, solid blocker, he can sneak up on opponents with his abilities as a receiver and short-yardage runner.

83. Adam Timmerman, G, Rams

A solid, underrated lineman, Timmerman rarely misses an assignment and rarely gets the credit he deserves.

84. Frank Wycheck, TE, Titans

Wycheck is a receiving tight end who has been consistent throughout his career. He has been quarterback Steve McNair's go-to guy in clutch situations.

85. Chad Lewis, TE, Eagles

Quarterback Donovan McNabb's favorite target in the red zone, Lewis slipped a little in 2001 but still has the receiving skills to be a productive target.

86. Dan Wilkinson, DT, Redskins

He finally demonstrated his potential last season when he demolished double teams and stuffed the run inside.

87. Al Wilson, ILB, Broncos

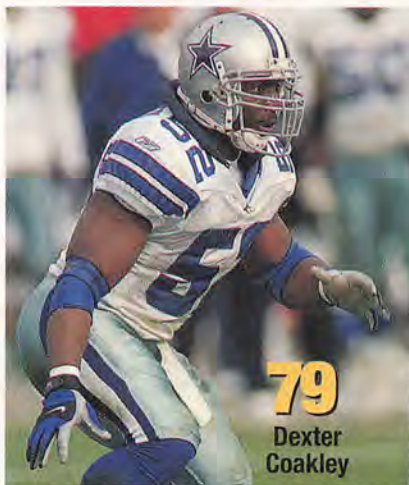
Wilson had 85 tackles for the Broncos last season and is one of the best cover middle linebackers in the league.

88. Gerard Warren, DT, Browns

He's a quick, explosive, playmaking tackle. After a slow start in his rookie season, Warren showed why he was the third overall draft pick in 2001.

89. Takeo Spikes, OLB, Bengals

This aggressive weakside linebacker is relentless tracking down ballcarriers from sideline to sideline.



79
Dexter
Coakley

JOHN MILLER FOR TSN

90. Daunte Culpepper, QB, Vikings

Culpepper can beat teams with his arm and his feet, but in his third year as a starter, he must take on more of a leadership role and improve his ability to handle pressure.

91. Courtney Brown, DE, Browns

He dominated the games in which he was healthy in 2001, but he must prove durable enough to handle a full season.

92. Rich Gannon, QB, Raiders

He appears to be getting better with age. One of the best leaders in the league, he improved his passer rating for the fourth straight season in 2001.

93. Tim Brown, WR, Raiders

At 36 and heading into his 15th season, Brown is not a great vertical threat and has lost some explosiveness, but he continues to excel because of his knowledge and instincts.

94. John Parrella, DT, Raiders

One of the most underrated defensive players in the league, Parrella is a run stopper who makes those around him better.

95. Jerry Rice, WR, Raiders

Despite age and lack of great vertical speed, Rice rarely drops a pass and still is an elite receiver who finds ways to get open.

96. Shaun Alexander, RB, Seahawks

Alexander becomes the featured back for the Seahawks. He led the NFL with 14 rushing touchdowns in 2001, but he must improve his blocking and receiving skills.

97. Joe Horn, WR, Saints

Horn doesn't break stride while making a catch, makes defenders miss in the open field and runs through tacklers.

98. R.W. McQuarters, CB, Chargers

McQuarters didn't go to the Pro Bowl last season, but he played at a Pro Bowl level. He is solid in man-to-man coverage and has above-average hands and ball skills.

99. Darren Woodson, SS, Cowboys

A mainstay at strong safety for the Cowboys for years, Woodson may move to free safety with the arrival of physical rookie Roy Williams.

100. Vonnie Holliday, DE, Packers

The Packers' best all-around defensive lineman, Holliday can stack and shed blocks at the line vs. the run and can play inside and collapse the pocket on passing plays.

101. Shawn Springs, CB, Seahawks

It is critical for the Seahawks that Springs begins the season in superior condition. Hamstring injuries slowed his ability to be a shutdown corner the past two years.

102. Sammy Knight, SS, Saints

Knight is a ballhawk who makes big hits and always seems to be around the ball. He uses his awareness and instincts to compensate for deficient speed.

103. Rodney Harrison, SS, Chargers

He's the standard for knockout-type safeties. Although he has superb instincts and aggressiveness, his desire to play the run sometimes takes him out of position.

104. Grant Wistrom, DE, Rams

Wistrom has great speed as an edge rusher, and he plays with leverage at the point of attack in the running game.

105. Chad Clifton, LT, Packers

Clifton has been inconsistent at times and must step up this season to protect quarterback Brett Favre's blind side.

106. Junior Seau, ILB, Chargers

His natural skills combined with the Chargers allowing him to roam freely results in Seau making plays all over the field. He went to the Pro Bowl for the 11th straight year in 2001.

107. Simeon Rice, DE, Buccaneers

He started to show an ability to anchor effectively at the line last season, proving he no longer is a liability against the run. He also led the Bucs in sacks.

108. Jeff Mitchell, C, Panthers

Mitchell still is one of the most efficient centers in the NFL, but he needs to bounce back to remain one of the top five centers in the game.

109. Brian Griese, QB, Broncos

Griese can look like a Pro Bowl quarterback at times, but his inability to stay healthy has led to inconsistency. If he can't get it done this season, coach Mike Shanahan may look in another direction.

110. Jamir Miller, LB, Browns

Miller erupted as a playmaker after coach Butch Davis unleashed him as a pass rusher last season. He shows rare closing speed to the ball.

111. Brian Simmons, ILB, Bengals

One of the fastest inside linebackers in the league, Simmons sheds blocks quickly, fills holes and chases down plays.

112. Jerome Bettis, RB, Steelers

A power back who is the focal point of the Steelers' offense, Bettis missed five regular-season games because of injury last season and must prove he is healthy.

113. Leonard Davis, G, Cardinals

Davis displayed amazing power and good quickness as a rookie last season, but the Cardinals hope he improves his overall conditioning this season.

114. Patrick Kerney, DE, Falcons

He showed good speed for an edge rusher and led the Falcons in sacks in 2001, but he lacks the lower-body power to anchor against the run.

115. London Fletcher, MLB, Bills

This undersized but intense linebacker utilizes speed, range and explosion to avoid blocks and fill holes. He will be a key addition to the Bills' defense.

116. Cornelius Griffin, DT, Giants

Griffin has a good burst and excels when he is on the move. After a great rookie debut as a pass-rush specialist in 2000, he struggled some as an every-down player last season.

117. Mike Brown, FS, Bears

He was outstanding in his second season and made numerous big plays, including game-winning interceptions for touchdowns in back-to-back weeks.

118. Ted Washington, DT, Bears

It's anyone's guess how close Washington is to 400 pounds, but he clearly is an effective run stuffer who takes up blockers and allows middle linebacker Brian Urlacher to roam free and make plays.

119. Mark Brunell, QB, Jaguars

He doesn't have the same weapons at receiver or the same pass protection he had earlier in his career, but Brunell still has good arm strength and is a fierce competitor.

120. Troy Brown, WR, Patriots

He lacks the size and straight-line speed of the prototypical receiver, but Brown is a playmaker—both as a receiver and a punt returner.

121. Tiki Barber, RB, Giants

Barber is an all-purpose back who is an excellent receiver, runs for tough yards and picks up the blitz.

122. Bobby Taylor, CB, Eagles

Taylor is solid in coverage, makes few mistakes and has the size to match up with most wide receivers.

123. Plaxico Burress, WR, Steelers

His size makes Burress a mismatch for defensive backs, particularly in the red zone. He showed marked improvement in 2001 but still needs to be consistent.

124. Greg Biekert, MLB, Raiders

Biekert is effective between tackles vs. the run, but he never has been a great athlete and is aging.

125. Barry Sims, RT, Raiders

Sims is a sound pass blocker on quarterback Rich Gannon's blind side and is effective opening holes in the running game.

126. Luke Petitgout, RT, Giants

A dominant run blocker at times, Petitgout must be a leader on a line that will start three inexperienced players.

127. Eddie George, RB, Titans

If he is fully recovered from a right foot injury that led to a subpar performance in 2001, George should regain his power and be the focus of the Titans' offense.

128. Bryant Young, DT, 49ers

Look for Young to take on a more vocal leadership role this season for the young 49ers' defense.

129. Chad Brown, OLB, Seahawks

Brown has enough speed to play sideline to sideline against the run, and now the Seahawks use him as an edge rusher—he had 8½ sacks last season—in passing situations.

130. Jon Jansen, RT, Redskins

Jansen helped lead the Redskins' power running attack in 2001. He will need to be more versatile this season.

131. Keith McKenzie, DE, Bears

McKenzie has a great chance to reach double-digit sacks as the Bears' situational edge rusher.

132. Ed McCaffrey, WR, Broncos

A healthy McCaffrey is one of the toughest, most consistent No. 2 receivers in the NFL—and its best blocking receiver.

133. Fred Taylor, RB, Jaguars

Few running backs are as dangerous as Taylor. But few have suffered through as many injuries.

134. Rob Burnett, DE, Dolphins

He still is strong against the run and has enough pass rushing skills to take some pressure off Jason Taylor.

135. Keenan McCardell, WR, Buccaneers

A precise route runner who has consistent hands, he took advantage of the attention given to Jimmy Smith in Jacksonville. McCardell should do the same for Tampa Bay opposite Keyshawn Johnson.

136. Kwamie Lassiter, FS, Cardinals

He was the most consistent member of the Cardinals' secondary in 2001 (nine interceptions, 83 tackles), but he may be slowing down.

137. Ray Buchanan, CB, Falcons

He was less than impressive early in 2001 but settled down and allowed fewer big plays near the end of the season.

138. Peter Boulware, OLB, Ravens

He is an outstanding pass rusher who excelled when he moved to end during the 2001 season, but he must be stronger against the run.

139. Drew Bledsoe, QB, Bills

Given a fresh start in Buffalo, Bledsoe must show leadership and regain his confidence while using his rifle arm to take advantage of the Bills' vertical threats at wide receiver.

140. Phillip Daniels, DE, Bears

Daniels is bigger than most right ends in the league and used strength more than speed to get nine sacks in 2001.

141. Keith Traylor, DT, Bears

Although he's a few pounds lighter than Ted Washington, Traylor also took up blockers and space, allowing the Bears' linebackers to flow freely against the run.

142. Rex Tucker, G, Bears

A pleasant surprise last season when he filled the starting spot vacated by Todd Perry, Tucker showed good footwork, strength and technique.

143. Chad Bratzke, DE, Colts

The Colts' premier quarterback chaser the last three

seasons, Bratzke might move to left end, with rookie Dwight Freene playing right end, on passing downs.

144. Mike Peterson, LB, Colts

He was the Colts' best defensive player and leading tackler before a season-ending injury last year. When healthy, he has excellent speed and a knack for getting to the ball.

145. Aaron Brooks, QB, Saints

He helped lead the Saints to the playoffs in 2001 after stepping in for injured Jeff Blake, but Brooks became unglued with 13 interceptions in the last four games last season.

146. Marco Rivera, G, Packers

Rivera is an extremely powerful short-area mauler, but he has limited athletic ability in space.

147. Norman Hand, DT, Saints

He was not as effective in 2001 because of weight problems, but if he's in shape, Hand can tie up multiple blockers and disrupt opponents' blocking schemes.

148. Darren Howard, DE, Saints

Howard moves from the left side to right end, his natural position, to replace departed Joe Johnson. Howard is a better athlete than Johnson but is not as experienced.

149. Ike Hilliard, WR, Giants

Hilliard isn't fast, but he is slippery before and after the catch, and he is willing to go over the middle.

150. Charlie Garner, RB, Raiders

Garner shows good speed as a runner and can line up all over the field as a receiver. When a passing play breaks down, he is a reliable option for quarterback Rich Gannon.

151. Kordell Stewart, QB, Steelers

Fulfilling expectations from his college days, Stewart was confident and consistent last season under new offensive coordinator Mike Mularkey. Now Stewart must do it again.

152. LaDainian Tomlinson, RB, Chargers

This second-year back has good speed and tremendous leg drive. He should continue to improve, especially with new coach Marty Schottenheimer's conservative approach.

153. Hines Ward, WR, Steelers

He led the team in receptions last year, but his blocking—downfield on a passing play or cracking back on a line-backer on a run—separates Ward from other receivers.

154. Ronde Barber, CB, Buccaneers

Barber, who tied for the league lead in interceptions and went to his first Pro Bowl last year, shows great anticipation and covers a lot of ground in the Bucs' cover 2 defense.

155. Donnie Abraham, CB, Jets

After losing his starting job with the Bucs in 2001, Abraham has moved on to New York, where coach Herman Edwards' scheme should take advantage of Abraham's ball skills.

156. Scott Gragg, RT, 49ers

This massive lineman plays with great power, technique and intensity, and he appears to be getting better with age.

157. Garrison Hearst, RB, 49ers

Rewarded with a new contract after a productive 2001, in which he was the NFL's comeback player of the year, Hearst will benefit from rotating with Kevan Barlow in the backfield.

158. Julian Peterson, OLB, 49ers

Peterson is a capable pass rusher when he is healthy, and the 49ers hope to see great explosiveness and quickness off the ball from him this season.

159. John Randle, DT, Seahawks

Randle showed no signs of losing a step in 2001. He missed time with an injury but was productive rushing the passer.

160. Samari Rolle, CB, Titans

Rolle is coming off a neck injury and a messy contract situation. The Titans hope he returns to the shutdown form he showed in 2000.

161. Jessie Armstead, OLB, Redskins

Armstead is eager to prove he still has something in his tank. He should continue to play with a great motor.

162. Stephen Davis, RB, Redskins

With impressive speed and power, Davis can handle the workload in the running game. He also will be asked to produce as receiver this season.

163. Ken Dilger, TE, Buccaneers

An effective blocker, especially on the move, Dilger should improve his production and be a factor over the middle.

164. Steve Foley, OLB, Bengals

He doesn't make a lot of big plays but does an excellent job against the run. He is relentless in pursuit.

165. Pete Kendall, G, Cardinals

A free-agent pickup from Seattle last year, Kendall played well until he suffered a foot injury late in the season.

166. Ashley Ambrose, CB, Falcons

He intercepted five passes last year and came up to make tackles against the run—not his style earlier in his career.

167. Wesley Walls, TE, Panthers

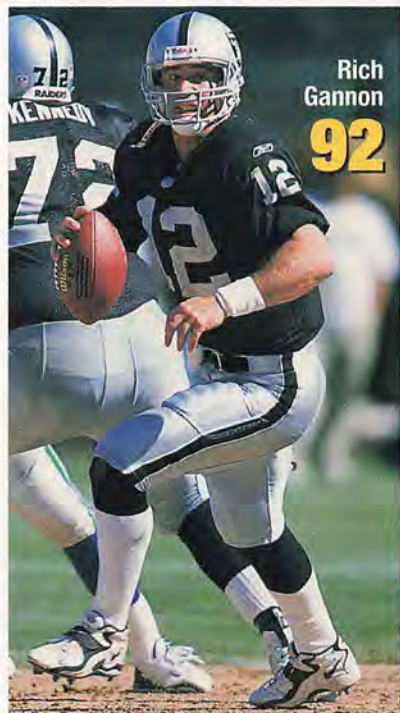
Although he is coming off reconstructive knee surgery for the second straight year, Walls is a steady, reliable receiver who is particularly effective in the red zone.

168. Flozell Adams, T, Cowboys

Adams showed flashes of maturing into an outstanding starter last season, but his work ethic must improve so he can take advantage of his size and talent.

169. Dat Nguyen, LB, Cowboys

Nguyen used quickness to avoid blocks and beat opponents to the point of attack and made 172 total tackles last year.



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

170. Chris Claiborne, MLB, Lions

He led the team in tackles after replacing injured Stephen Boyd in the middle last season, but Claiborne overran plays at times and must improve his recognition skills.

171. Mike Flanagan, C, Packers

Flanagan is not overly impressive in space and must anchor better when he plays head-up against bigger nose tackles.

172. Tony Brackens, DE, Jaguars

Brackens is the best player left on a line that lost Renaldo Wynn, Gary Walker and Seth Payne in the offseason.

173. Johnnie Morton, WR, Chiefs

A durable, consistent receiver for eight seasons in Detroit, Morton will be counted on to supply spark and production in a Chiefs receivers corps that was underwhelming in 2001.

174. Antowain Smith, RB, Patriots

Smith was one of the best free-agent acquisitions of the 2001 season. His powerful style of running is the key to the success of the Patriots' offense.

175. Jason Fabini, LT, Jets

Although he is a better fit on the right side, Fabini will be solid protecting Vinny Testaverde's blind side. He is tough, instinctive and makes few mistakes.

176. Bill Romanowski, OLB, Raiders

A cap casualty in Denver, Romanowski wants to show the Broncos he still is one of the best outside linebackers in the league. He will blitz often in the Raiders' nickel packages.

177. Jeff Hartings, C, Steelers

After switching teams and positions, the former guard was superb at center for the Steelers in 2001. He made line calls, played well in space and was tough at the point of attack.

178. Aaron Smith, DE, Steelers

Smith is a bull-rushing end who plays like a tackle in running situations. He soon will become a Pro Bowl player.

179. Andre Carter, DE, 49ers

After a slow start as a rookie last year, Carter had 4½ sacks in the final five games. With better consistency, he could develop into one of the league's best ends.

180. Lance Schulters, SS, Titans

After Blaine Bishop left for Philadelphia, the Titans grabbed Schulters because they love his toughness and hitting.

181. Damien Woody, C, Patriots

Woody is not solid in shotgun snapping but moves the pile in the running game and mirrors and slides in pass protection.

182. Nate Clements, CB, Bills

Clements has good size for a corner and hits like a line-backer. The ability of Clements and Antoine Winfield to play man coverage allows the Bills to do more blitzing.

183. Charlie Clemons, LB, Saints

Clemons is quick and explosive and has skills as a pass-rush specialist. He's still raw and has room to improve.

184. Tom Brady, QB, Patriots

The Super Bowl MVP must prove that his first season as a starter was not a fluke. Brady has the poise to be an effective leader in the Patriots' conservative offense.

185. Muhsin Muhammad, WR, Panthers

Muhammad was one of the league's most productive receivers in 1999 and 2000, but injuries and off-field problems slowed him last season.

186. Anthony Thomas, RB, Bears

He carried the load for the Bears as a rookie in 2001 and will get 25 or more carries per game this season. He has excellent hands as receiver.

187. Greg Ellis, DE, Cowboys

One of the steadiest players on the Cowboys' line, Ellis should be more effective with the addition of tackle La'Roi Glover.

188. Solomon Page, OT, Cowboys

A strong mauler-type, Page was solid in 2001. He'll be motivated to play hard because it's the last year of his contract.

189. Mike McKenzie, CB, Packers

McKenzie matured last season and is on the verge of becoming an excellent corner. He probably will take more chances.

190. Jason Gildon, LB, Steelers

Gildon has size, speed and pass-rush moves, and he chases down running plays from behind.

191. Bubba Franks, TE, Packers

Franks developed as a force in the red zone last season, but he must improve his balance, route running and blocking.

192. Grady Jackson, DT, Saints

A free-agent addition from Oakland, Jackson should be a force next to tackle Norman Hand—if he stays in shape and avoids the injuries that hampered him last season.

193. Mike Barrow, LB, Giants

Barrow, the Giants' only sure thing at linebacker, must learn a new system and be a mentor for the younger players.

194. Jason Sehorn, CB, Giants

Sehorn's career could be revived if the Giants move him to free safety and make him a roaming center-fielder.

195. Blaine Bishop, SS, Eagles

Bishop will bring intelligence and leadership to an Eagles secondary that already is among one of the league's best.

196. Carlos Emmons, LB, Eagles

Few linebackers are better at covering backs out of the backfield than Emmons.

197. Donnie Edwards, LB, Chargers

Edwards is a playmaker who can blitz, cover backs out of the backfield and make plays in space against the run.

198. Zack Bronson, FS, 49ers

He has a better feel for moving on the ball than any other 49ers defensive back. He had a breakout season in 2001.

199. Reggie Tongue, SS, Seahawks

Tongue was adequate last season but must be better now that the Seahawks are in the pass-happy NFC West and must face the Rams and 49ers twice.

200. Leonard Little, DE, Rams

Little is not a force vs. the run, but he quickly has developed into one of the league's elite pass rushers because of his tremendous speed off the edge.

A guide to the **GUIDE**

THE WAR ROOM'S GRADING SYSTEM

These grades are for players who have NFL experience. The grades assigned to rookies are their college grades. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

9.0 – 10.0 Rare player

Demonstrates rare abilities and can create mismatches that have an obvious impact on the game. Premier NFL player who has all the skills to consistently play at a championship level. Rates in the top five at his position in the league.

8.0 – 8.9 Outstanding player

Has ability to create mismatches vs. most opponents in the NFL. A feature player who has an impact on the outcome of the game. Can't be shut down by a single player and plays on a consistent level week in and week out. Rates in the top 10 at his position in the league.

7.5 – 7.9 Solid starter

Close to being an elite player. No glaring weaknesses. Usually will win his individual matchups but does not dominate in every game, especially when matched up against the top players in the league. Usually will rate among the top 20 players at his position in the league.

7.0 – 7.4 Good starter

Usually a consistent player with excellent competitiveness and is the heart of his team, but is not a dominant player against the better players he faces on a weekly basis. Gives great effort and teams are glad to have him, but he might not go to the next level.

6.5 – 6.9 Adequate starter

Gives a solid effort week in and week out, but is overmatched against the better players in the league. Weaknesses will be exposed and he will not survive most man-to-man matchups. Never will be a star, but a player who teams like having on their rosters. Definition of the term "blue collar."

6.0 – 6.4 Marginal starter/good Backup

A player who really is on the bubble and starts only because of a

deficiency at the position. Lacks complete overall skills, although he puts up a fight. It's not a good thing to have this guy starting consistently during a 16-game season. Needs to be a solid contributor on special teams or show great versatility at his position to keep his roster spot.

5.5 – 5.9 Adequate backup

If forced to start, he's only a short-term fix. Might make the team because of special teams contributions or experience, but his limitations keep him from being a starter or a significant contributor. A player who the team is always looking to upgrade. Must be aware of alerts, such as age or injury.

5.0 – 5.4 Marginal backup

Hanging on by a thread and is on a team only because there is nobody else to take his place. Has significant weaknesses in his game. Is not close to being a starter and is only an adequate contributor on special teams. A guy who the team wants to replace as quickly as possible. Must be aware of alerts and teams need to limit the number of players they have in this category.

4.5 – 4.9 Poor player

Emergency fill-in who might not know the system and has little value other than the level of his experience. Not a long-term solution; a player the team doesn't want to keep around any longer than necessary.

4.0 or lower Young player

A player with fewer than two years in the league, and there is little or no film available to evaluate him. A player who has not provided enough information in practice, training camp or on film for a valid evaluation to be made.

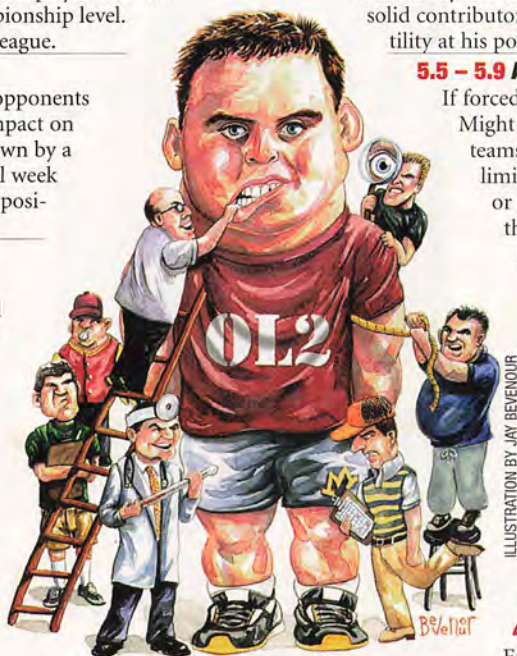


ILLUSTRATION BY JAY BEVENOUR

About The War Room

Football scouts attend games and practices, watch players on film and write reports on what they observe. It is in this manner that NFL teams determine which players to draft, sign as free agents and acquire in trades. The scouting process is at the core of NFL roster management.

None of the league's 32 scouting departments works for THE SPORTING NEWS, but we have the next-best thing: The War Room.

The scouts at The War Room do everything their NFL counterparts do, but instead of internalizing this information, they write it exclusively for THE SPORTING NEWS. The War Room, which

wrote the entire *Scouting Guide*, is dedicated to serving the hard-core football fan with thoughtful, in-depth analysis of NFL and college players, coaches and teams.

"We're trying to run The War Room like an NFL scouting department," says Gary Horton, who founded The War Room in 1996. "We want to be like the NFL's 33rd scouting department."

Horton spent 10 years in the NFL as a scout with Tampa Bay and Cleveland, and another 10 years at the college coaching level with Arizona State and Illinois. His extensive NFL experience and the close relationships he maintains with front-office personnel staffs and coaches around the league allow him to maintain daily

communication with virtually every NFL team.

He is assisted by a staff of scouts who have trained under his watchful eye. Together, The War Room scouts break down film of every NFL game, college games and individual footage of college prospects, and they attend training camps and games in person.

"That way, you get a good look at a guy physically and see if he matches up to what you saw on film," Horton says.

The War Room provides exclusive content for Sporting News Radio, TSN's weekly magazine, yearbooks, website (sportingnews.com), Draft Central (ultimate.sportingnews.com/nfl/draft) and Fantasy Source (fantasy.sportingnews.com).

HOW PLAYERS ARE GRADED *Evaluation criteria by position*

QUARTERBACK

Arm strength: Velocity, tight spiral, zip on deep out.

Set-up quicks: Feet, quietness of drop, body position.

Accuracy: Long and short, catchable ball, forces ball.

Field vision: Locates second receiver, sees the whole field.

Running ability: Threat, avoids rush, quick feet.

Delivery: Quick release, high or low, mechanics.

Ball handling: Good fakes, freezes linebackers.

Leadership: Poise under pressure, moves the team.

RUNNING BACK

Inside: Quick to hole, vision, cuts.

Outside: Speed to corner, makes cuts, threat.

Elusiveness: Avoids tackles, change of direction, moves, vision.

Power: Balance, breaks tackles, short yardage strength, falls forward.

Blocker: Willing, pass protection, run blocking.

Hands/pass routes: Catches ball out of backfield, tendency

to fumble.

Durability: Takes a hit, toughness, stays in the game.

Running style: Slasher, darter, power, second gear.

TIGHT END/ WIDE RECEIVER

Hands: Concentration, snatches, soft hands.

Routes: Sharp and crisp, body control, fakes, cuts.

Catch long and short: Possession, acceleration, can go deep.

Run after catch: Threat, catches in stride, elusive.

Blocker: Willing, good results, sustains, open field.

Release: Can avoid jam, not held up, physical.

Reacts to ball in a crowd: Comes over middle, tough.

Initial quickness: Accelerates, gets off ball, has extra gear.

OFFENSIVE LINE

Initial quickness: Comes off the ball, feet, beats defensive lineman.

Run blocking: Leverage, control, balance.

Pass blocking: Feet, setup, mir-

rors, adjusts in space.

Pulls and traps: Hits moving target, adjusts in space.

Use of hands: Gets separation, keeps defensive lineman off, leverage.

Strength: Leverage, moves the pile, can anchor.

Explosion: Finishes block, plays low, has pop.

DEFENSIVE LINE

Against the run: One-gap or two-gap, strength at point of attack, wards off.

Pass rush: Power or finesse, moves, penetration.

Pursuit: Gets over trash, gets to outside, effort.

Tackling: Wraps up, low or high, drags down, power.

Initial quicks: Takeoff, feet, anticipates snap.

Recognition: Sees blocks coming, instincts, finds ball.

Neutralize block: one-on-one, double-teams, traps, anchors.

Key and diagnose: Reads blocks, good feet, sees ball.

LINEBACKER

Against inside run: Steps up and fills hole, physical, takes on

blockers.

Against outside run: Wards off blocks, gets to sideline, pursuit.

Blitz/pass rush: Power or finesse, use of hands, feet.

Key and diagnose: Reads and reacts, gets jump on ball.

Lateral pursuit: Gets over trash, hips, sideline chase.

Tackling: Wraps up, physical, drags down, solid.

Pass drop: Hips and turns, depth, zone coverage.

Pass coverage/hands: Man coverage, hips and turns.

DEFENSIVE BACK

Man coverage: Hips and turns, pedal and acceleration.

Zone coverage: Range, covers ground, deep half, awareness.

Closing quickness: Plant and drive, gets to ball in the air.

Key and diagnose: Reads quarterback, anticipates, in right spot.

Lateral pursuit: Gets over trash, hips, sideline chase.

Tackling: Wraps up, physical, drags down, solid.

Pass drop: Hips and turns, depth, zone coverage.

SCOUT SPEAK *Definitions of terms used by The War Room in evaluating players*

Anchor: Offensive lineman's ability to hold his ground against a physical defensive player on a bull rush or blitz.

Diagnose skills: Defensive player's ability to recognize if the play is a pass or run following the snap by reading his keys and using good instincts.

East-west: Ballcarrier who dances too much and is too hesitant.

Gets over trash/moves well in trash: Defensive player who excels at fighting through blocks and bodies to get to the ball.

Get under the offensive tackle and occupy his gap vs. the run: Defensive lineman's ability to use leverage to hold his ground at the point of attack and prevent a runner from coming through the gap that is his responsibility.

Hips and turns: The ability of a defensive back to open his hips without losing speed in transition from a backpedal to a full-out run. Indicates whether a player in coverage can change directions and stay with quicker, shifter receivers.

Makes plays on the move: Typically, a linebacker or defensive end who is better in space or when allowed to run free than when forced to play in traffic.

Mauler: Player with the size and strength to win most battles in a short area, but usually lacks great athletic ability.

Measurables/tools: Quantitative measurements of a player such as height, weight, speed and strength.

Move-the-chains player: Possession receiver who makes the tough catch in a crowd, knows where the first-down marker is and is a

go-to guy on third down.

Nonstop motor: Never stops hustling or takes a play off.

North-south: A ballcarrier who doesn't dance and who gets upfield right away.

Pass pro: Pass protection.

Phone booth: Short area or confined space when close to the line of scrimmage.

Redirect: Player's ability to alter his path or direction to make a block or get to a tackle.

Short-area possession skills/great possession measurables: The size, strength and hands to make the tough catch in traffic.

Short set in pass pro: Offensive lineman who can get out of his stance quickly and get into position as a pass blocker on a three-step drop.

Soft hands/solid hands: Receiver's ability to look the ball in and catch it away from the body without fighting the ball.

Stack and shed: Defensive player's ability to take on a blocker, disengage that blocker and make the play.

Straight-line speed: A runner's speed when he doesn't have to change direction (basically, his 40 time). Some guys are fast when they get to top speed, but slow down when they change directions.

Wave player: Backup player who has the ability to perform well over short periods while the starter rests.

ALL PLAYER ANALYSES BY THE WAR ROOM

1. Brett Favre, Packers

6-2 225

Age: 32 12th year

Strengths: Has great size, toughness and rare arm strength. Is quick and mobile in the pocket. Still a threat to tuck and run. Can roll out and throw on the run and throw across his body. Puts exceptional zip on the deep out routes and can place the ball in tight areas. Is accurate in the short and vertical passing games. Makes quick decisions and sees the entire field. Does a good job of going through progressions and finding the open receiver.

Weaknesses: Still tries to make too much happen at times and makes some poor throws and decisions under pressure. Is aging and not as mobile or strong as he once was.

Bottom line: One of the most dangerous quarterbacks in the NFL and an outstanding leader. Is coming off of one of his best seasons and is playing behind a young but proven offensive line. **GRADE: 9.7**

GRADE: 9.7

2. Kurt Warner, Rams

6-2 220

Age: 31 5th year

Strengths: Has outstanding timing with his throws. Makes quick decisions and good pre-snap reads. Has an uncanny ability to release the ball from different angles. Adequate size and strength. Usually does an excellent job of going through progressions and getting to the third and fourth reads. Sees the field as well as any quarterback in the league. Moves well in the pocket and has a feel for where pressure is coming from. Displays courage. Not afraid to step up in the pocket, make the throw and take the big hit.

Weaknesses: Will force some throws in an attempt to make a big play. Not a threat to run with the ball. Takes too many big hits, so durability is a concern.

Bottom line: An elite quarterback who will remain in the upper echelon as long as he is healthy because of his ability to find the open receiver and tremendous accuracy.

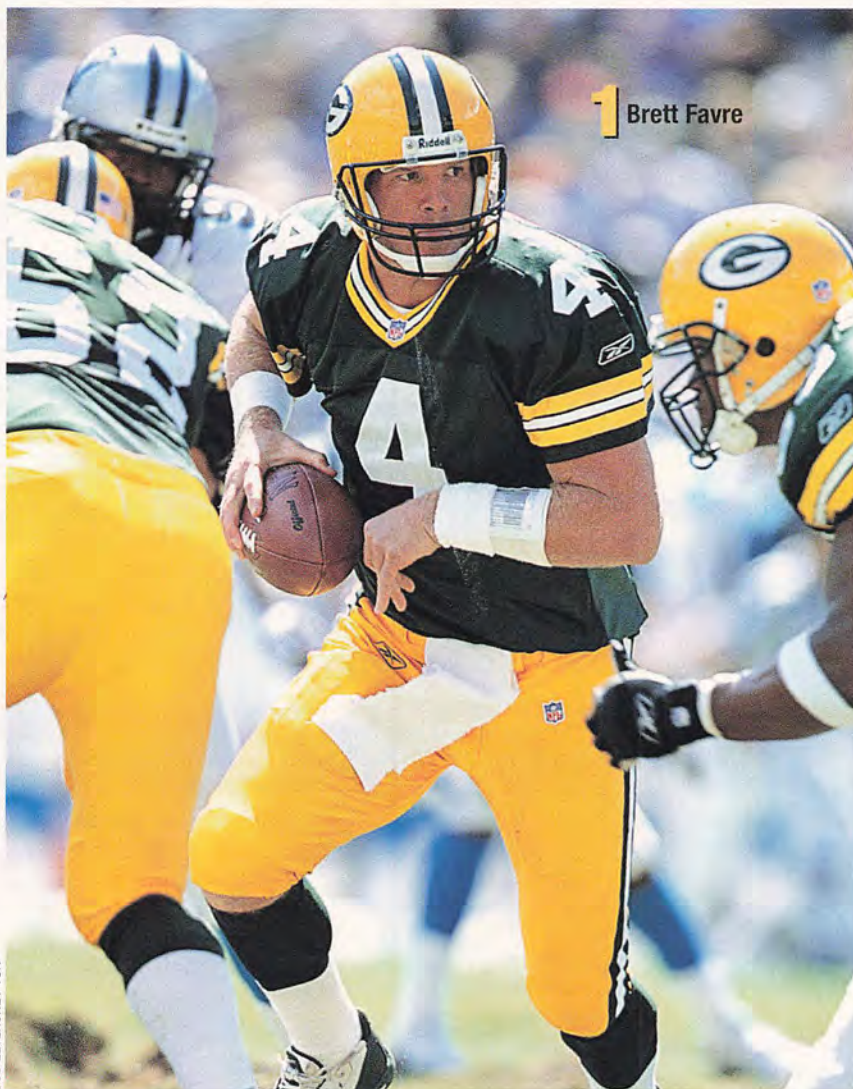
GRADE: 9.6

3. Donovan McNabb, Eagles

6-2 226

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Adequately sized and well-built. Feet are outstanding, shows the ability to buy second and third chances in the pocket and is a threat to tuck the ball and run. Is accurate throwing while rolling out in either direction. Shows rare arm strength on the



1 Brett Favre

JOB REQUIREMENTS

	Ht.	Wt.	40
NFL optimum	6-3	220	4.60
NFL minimum	6-0	195	5.00

The transition from the big, immobile dropback passer to the player who can buy extra time with his athleticism continues. But quarterbacks still need the arm strength to throw the deep ball with velocity, the ability to throw to the sideline, the intelligence to recognize and exploit complex coverage and blitz schemes, and the touch to get the ball between zones. Strong leadership and character are premiums.

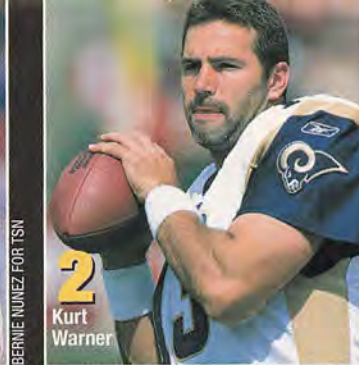
deep ball and has excellent velocity on his throws. Is improving on beating pressure.

Weaknesses: Still inconsistent when forced to put touch on passes, tries to make too much happen at times and will force the ball into coverage. Needs to take off and run more. Still has to work on timing of fade route and long sideline routes. Deep ball tends to be less accurate than other throws.

Bottom line: One of the few quarterbacks in the league capable of taking over a game, McNabb continues to improve with experience and should benefit from a maturing wide receiver corps. But he needs to play at a more consistent level.



5
Peyton Manning



2
Kurt Warner



4
Jeff Garcia



3
Donovan McNabb

4. Jeff Garcia, 49ers

6-1 195

Age: 32 4th year

Strengths: Shows good mobility in the pocket, the ability to sidestep the rush and a very quick release. Is a threat to tuck the ball and run and also is capable of throwing while rolling to either side. Shows great accuracy and does an outstanding job of making pre-snap reads. Makes quick decisions, gets rid of the ball quickly and is capable of beating pressure. Can freeze linebackers with play fakes. Continues to improve with experience.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal height and has trouble seeing over his linemen at times. Does not have prototypical arm strength for a starter. His lack of bulk, combined with his aggressive style of play, makes durability somewhat of a concern.

Bottom line: Is not the most gifted quarterback in the league and would not be as successful in other schemes, but his athleticism, intelligence and quick release are ideal for San Francisco's offense.

GRADE: 9.2

5. Peyton Manning, Colts

6-5 230

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Does a great job recognizing and adjusting to the blitz. Can make most throws downfield. Is the best play-action quarterback in the league. Does a great job of delivering the ball into coverage. Throws a catchable, soft ball and shows great touch. Will give his receivers chances to make plays in one-on-one situations.

Weaknesses: Throws too many balls into coverage. Is not a great athlete. Is not a threat to run and has trouble throwing on the run.

Bottom line: Is coming off a down year but should continue to get better with practice

and experience. Has the potential to be one of the best but must show poise when his team falls behind.

GRADE: 8.8

6. Steve McNair, Titans

6-2 225

Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Has excellent arm strength. Shows the ability to roll in either direction and put good velocity on the ball. Throws a very catchable ball. Is physical and aggressive as a runner and can pick up yards after contact. Has the ability to create when the offense appears to break down.

Weaknesses: Has had problems with his back and shoulder. Forces the ball into coverage at times. Has a tendency to lock onto a receiver. Must improve his ability to read coverages.

Bottom line: Because offseason surgery improved the range in his shoulder, he should be better. Proved he could get the job done with little around him last year and should have a productive season based on those results.

GRADE: 8.4

7. Daunte Culpepper, Vikings

6-4 260

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has great athletic ability and quickness for his size. Always a threat to tuck the ball and run. Has good pocket awareness and shows the ability to create second chances. Has tremendous arm strength and can fit ball into tight spots. Has great lower-body strength. Can make an accurate throw while being tackled.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent. Does a poor job of planting feet and deep balls tend to sail when he's not set. Not patient enough and sometimes tucks the ball and runs before he needs to. Is learning a new scheme.

Bottom line: A starter who needs a productive

running game to be effective. Has the potential to be among NFL's best.

GRADE: 8.0

7. Brian Griese, Broncos

6-3 215

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Shows good accuracy. Does a good job of getting set quickly and shows quick feet. Is capable of tucking the ball and getting upfield. Does a great job of beating the blitz. Is a hard worker and intelligent player. Shows good overall instincts.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size and strength. Will try to force the ball into coverage. Will false pat the ball and lock onto his receivers at times. Does not always make good decisions under pressure. Showed excellent leadership skills in the past, though not last year.

Bottom line: Will benefit from the return of TE Shannon Sharpe to Denver; if he can stay healthy, should have a strong season.

GRADE: 8.0

9. Mark Brunell, Jaguars

6-1 217

Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Sets up well and has a good release. Throws a catchable ball and puts receivers in good position to make the catch. Can change speed on throws. Can drop the ball over the top of a secondary. Can carry an offense on his back.

Weaknesses: Has taken some big hits the last several years, so durability is a concern. So is mobility. Forces ball into coverage too often.

Bottom line: If healthy, he will put up big numbers.

GRADE: 7.9

10. Drew Bledsoe, Bills

6-5 240

Age: 30 10th year

Strengths: Has ideal arm strength and a quick release. Shows great zip on the deep out and good touch on the vertical ball. Leads his receivers on crossing routes.

ON THE RISE: Jay Fiedler, Dolphins

The addition of Ricky Williams gives Fiedler a ground game to set up the pass. He's well-suited for Norv Turner's offense, which requires quick calls by the quarterback.

ON THE DECLINE: Vinny Testaverde, Jets

He turns 39 during the season, he is coming off foot surgery, and he hasn't been the same since 1998. It might be time backup Chad Pennington gets some snaps.

SLEEPER: Trent Green, Chiefs

He struggled in his first season in Kansas City, but he didn't have reliable weapons at receiver. The addition of Johnnie Morton should improve Green's effectiveness.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Akili Smith, Bengals

Smith, the third overall pick in the 1999 draft, has excellent speed, athleticism and arm strength but has yet to win the starting job.

BEST UNDER PRESSURE: Brett Favre, Packers

At times he makes bad decisions, but Favre wants the ball in his hands when it matters the most, and his teammates are confident he will get the job done.

BEST DECISION-MAKER: Kurt Warner, Rams

A thumb injury restricted his velocity in 2001, leading to interceptions. When he is healthy, no one is better at recognizing mismatches and finding the open receiver.

MOST DANGEROUS RUNNER: Daunte Culpepper, Vikings

He not only is fast, athletic and elusive when containment breaks down, but he has excellent size. He even can pick up yards after contact.

STRONGEST ARM: Donovan McNabb, Eagles

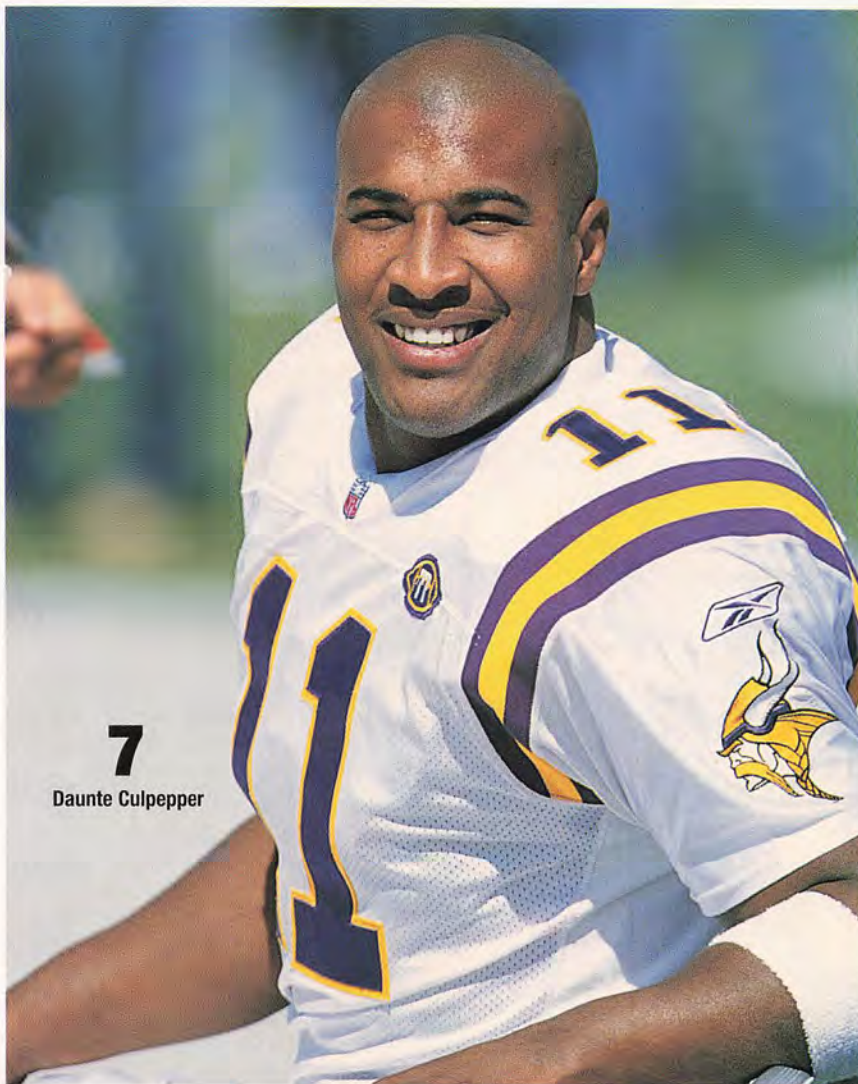
He has displayed rare velocity on his deeper passes, and because of that he can force the ball into areas other quarterbacks cannot.

BEST IN SHORT PASSING GAME: Jeff Garcia, 49ers

He doesn't have ideal arm strength, but his ability to make fast decisions and his timing and accuracy make him an ideal fit for the 49ers' passing game.

MOST ACCURATE: Kurt Warner, Rams

Rams receivers say Warner actually aims the ball to the side opposite the defender, telling them where he is and allowing them to be more effective after the catch.



7

Daunte Culpepper

Weaknesses: Shows a lack of mobility and foot quickness within the pocket and takes a lot of hits as a result. Struggles when forced to make quick decisions, has trouble with hot reads and takes too long to set up.
Bottom line: One of the few quarterbacks who can beat teams with arm strength but is just average without protection. Will benefit from better weapons at receiver than he had in New England, but his inability to avoid pressure and create second chances limits this offense.
GRADE: 7.8

T10. Aaron Brooks, Saints

6-4 210 **Age: 26 4th year**
Strengths: Has a strong arm. Can buy time in the pocket. Has excellent quickness and the speed to take off and run. Is elusive in the open field.

Weaknesses: Tends to force the ball into coverage. Sometimes throws the ball up for grabs when the play breaks down. Has trouble leading receivers on quick routes.

Bottom line: Has the tools to be an upper-echelon quarterback but must make better decisions with the ball.
GRADE: 7.8

T10. Kordell Stewart, Steelers

6-1 217 **Age: 29 8th year**
Strengths: Is innovative and superior athletically. Has outstanding speed and quickness, and excellent arm strength and accuracy. Has zip on his deep out passes. Is dangerous to run or throw when on the move. Has running back-type skills in open field.
Weaknesses: Lacks great height; at times has to move to find a proper throwing lane. Play-action fake could use work. Needs more patience in pocket.

Bottom line: Look for Stewart to maintain consistency. He'll be surrounded by talented skill players and should thrive under offensive coordinator Mike Mularkey's newly developed perimeter passing attack.
GRADE: 7.8

13. Rich Gannon, Raiders

6-3 210 **Age: 36 15th year**
Strengths: Is extremely intelligent and has excellent athletic ability. Is mobile. Has good arm strength and great feet and sees the whole field. Throws accurately, even on the run. Can read the defense and make sound decisions with the ball for second and third options.

Weaknesses: Does not have a cannon arm and struggles a bit with the deep out. Might not be able to carry the offense. Ball sails on him when he tries to put too much on it.

Bottom line: Should be successful if he remains healthy and continues to use the team's offensive weapons.
GRADE: 7.7

14. Tom Brady, Patriots

6-4 220 **Age: 25 3rd year**
Strengths: Has excellent size, good arm strength and seems able to make all of the throws. Has shown improvement in ability to move around the pocket. Hangs in and allows receivers to break on the ball. Does a nice job throwing on the move.

Weaknesses: Does not have great speed. Must improve ability to read defenses.

Bottom line: Has a better supporting cast heading into this season than he had when he took over from Drew Bledsoe last season. Should be the Patriots' starting quarterback for the next 10 years.
GRADE: 7.6

T15. Kerry Collins, Giants

6-5 245 **Age: 29 8th year**
Strengths: Has excellent size and a strong arm. Does an adequate job of freezing linebackers with play fakes. Shows adequate footwork and excellent touch on throws to the sideline. Throws the fade route as well as anyone in the league. Has not missed a snap over the last two seasons.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent. Lacks the mobility to create second chances. Makes poor decisions when pressured and forces the ball into coverage. Throws off his back foot at times.

Bottom line: Pocket passer who has the arm strength to make every throw. Needs time to be effective and might not get it because the offensive line is going through several personnel changes.
GRADE: 7.5

T15. Trent Dilfer, Seahawks

6-4 229 **Age: 30 9th year**
Strengths: Is big and physical with a lot of experience. Comfortable in the pocket. Is mentally tough. He is a great competitor, and teammates rally around him.

Weaknesses: Does not have much mobility. Does not throw well on the move and is not a threat to tuck ball and run. Is not patient and tends to force throws.

Bottom line: May never play in another Pro Bowl but will be productive in the right situation. Most important, he has proved he can help win a championship.
GRADE: 7.5

T17. Tim Couch, Browns

6-4 227 **Age: 25 4th year**
Strengths: Is an accurate passer. Puts excellent touch on his passes. Is capable of making throws on the run. Builds speed as he goes when he decides to run. Is at his best in a quick-hitting passing game. Sees the entire field.

Weaknesses: Does not have great quickness in the pocket and takes a lot of sacks. Struggles to throw the deep-out route. Must improve ability to read and beat the blitz.

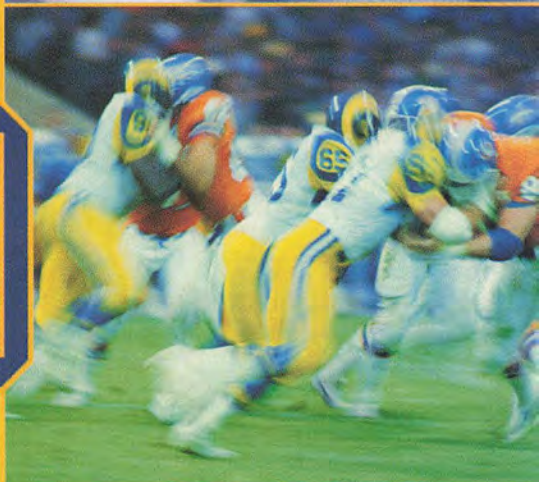
Are you

GAME?

Pro football is here!

Score **BIG** at

BetGameDay.com



Wagering Menu

- Football
- Basketball
- Baseball
- Hockey
- Soccer
- Golf
- NASCAR
- Formula 1
- Horse Racing
- Current Events

Special Bonuses

- New Account Bonuses
- Reload Bonuses
- Loyalty Rewards
- Free T-Shirts
- Matchup Analysis

GameDay offers a complete sportsbook, racebook and a Vegas-style virtual casino. Bet online or over the phone! Minimum bets start at \$1.00! Fund your account immediately using Credit Cards, Western Union, Neteller and Paypal. Open your FREE account today!

Mention Sporting News and get 3 points FREE on your first wager.*

BetGameDay.com

1-800-FUN-BETS (386-2387)

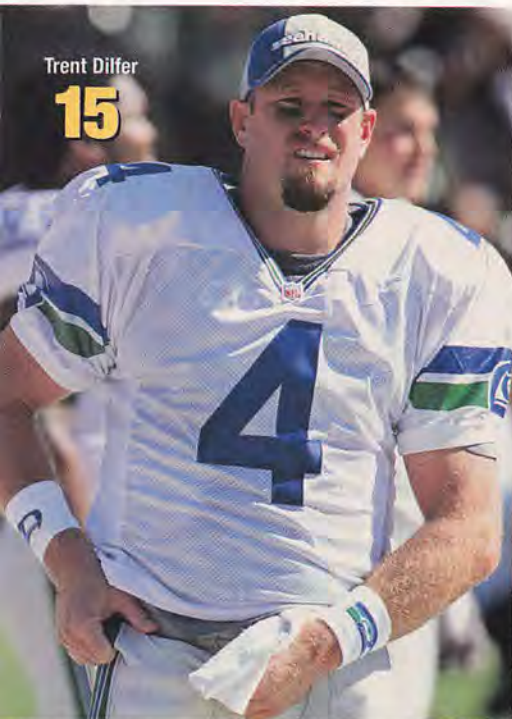
International, call +599-9-736-2490



* Conditions apply. Visit our website or call for details. © GameDay International, N.V. Legally Licensed in the Netherlands Antilles

Trent Dilfer

15



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

Bottom line: The Browns' starting quarterback who should continue to improve with time and a better running game. **GRADE: 7.4**

T17. Brad Johnson, Buccaneers

6-5 226

Age: 33 11th year

Strengths: Has good arm strength. Can step up and throw. Shows the ability to find second and third options. Is intelligent. Has ability to make all the throws.

Weaknesses: Must improve accuracy on deep ball. Has marginal speed and is not a threat to run. Takes too many sacks. Needs to stay healthy.

Bottom line: Has elite passing skills as a pocket passer and could thrive in coach Jon Gruden's system if given time to take maximum advantage of weapons. The addition of a legitimate running back, No. 2 receiver and tight end will make Johnson better. **GRADE: 7.4**

T17. Jim Miller, Bears

6-2 221

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Shows excellent leadership qualities. Has decent arm strength and can hit receivers on the run. Has a good grasp of the offense and sees the entire field. Is excellent under pressure and does a good job finding the open receiver.

Weaknesses: Is not very mobile, is not a threat to tuck the ball and run and is a sitting duck in the pocket when teams blitz. Has age and durability concerns.

Bottom line: Adequate starter who is a good fit for the Bears' offense in the short term. Surrounded by enough complementary players to be productive. **GRADE: 7.4**

T17. Vinny Testaverde, Jets

6-5 235

Age: 38 16th year

Strengths: Has excellent size, and his arm is

strong enough to make all the throws. Has great touch on sideline routes and can drop the ball in over coverage. Is at his best in a fast-paced offense.

Weaknesses: Must be more consistent. Forces throws into coverage using just his arm and must do a better job using his lower body. Lacks ideal instincts. Does not always see the whole field.

Bottom line: If coordinator Paul Hackett opens things up, Testaverde has the arm strength and weapons at receiver (especially if Santana Moss stays healthy) to have a productive season. **GRADE: 7.4**

T17. Michael Vick, Falcons

6-0 215

Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Has a rifle arm. Can make all the throws, including the deep out. Has tremendous quickness, change of direction skills, vision, patience and speed. Runs like a wide receiver in the open field.

Weaknesses: Lacks overall feel and comfort level on the field. Has only average accuracy. Doesn't show ability to always see the whole field as a passer. Struggles to beat the blitz consistently. Must learn to use elusiveness.

Bottom line: Is one of the biggest running threats among quarterbacks. Will improve his passing and overall game with experience. Has the physical skills to be a great one. **GRADE: 7.4**

T22. Jake Plummer, Cardinals

6-2 202

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is athletic and has quick feet. Excels outside the pocket, where he is comfortable creating plays on the run. Shows better accuracy when rolling out. Is a good leader.

Weaknesses: Lacks great arm strength and doesn't make quality decisions consistently. Puts too much air under deep balls. Is undersized and has trouble finding throwing windows.

Bottom line: Hasn't reached full potential but should blossom because he has the best line he has worked with and dangerous receiving threats in wideout David Boston and tight end Freddie Jones. **GRADE: 7.3**

T22. Jay Fiedler, Dolphins

6-2 225

Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Has good leadership skills. Has shown improved ability to handle the blitz. Doesn't make a lot of mistakes. Is always prepared. Protects the ball. Can buy a second chance with his feet.

Weaknesses: Lacks good size and strength. Lacks ideal arm strength and accuracy. Struggles when forced to throw outside. Makes poor decisions when flushed out of the pocket. Does not see entire field.

Bottom line: Is a tremendous competitor who can flourish with a productive running game, which is what the Dolphins should have this season. **GRADE: 7.3**

T24. Chris Chandler, Bears

6-4 228

Age: 36 15th year

Strengths: Is intelligent and has a lot of

experience. Is tough and competitive. Is not afraid to step up in the pocket and take a big hit. Does not back down under pressure. Has good size and can see over the line. Is efficient, especially on third down.

Weaknesses: Is not durable, and health is becoming a bigger problem with age. Has lost a lot of zip on his passes and lacks velocity on the deep route. Becomes less accurate when he tries to make something big happen under pressure.

Bottom line: Quality reserve who has enough skill and experience to start but will be a backup behind Jim Miller. **GRADE: 7.1**

T24. Chris Weinke, Panthers

6-4 232

Age: 30 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent size and arm strength. Is best in the pocket. Studies film and understands defenses. A mature, tough leader. Has good sense of when the pocket is collapsing. Has all the physical tools.

Weaknesses: Does not have great mobility. Needs to get better timing and feel for receivers. Must get rid of ball quicker. Doesn't take off and run. Needs to do a better job against the blitz.

Bottom line: Struggled in rookie season but is a tough, competitive leader who can handle the mental duress of the position. With a year under his belt and a consistent running game, he should have a better sophomore season. **GRADE: 7.1**

T26. Quincy Carter, Cowboys

6-2 231

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has the arm strength to be a factor in the vertical passing game. Is athletic enough to create under pressure and avoid sacks. Is a dangerous open-field runner and a big-play threat when he breaks containment.

Weaknesses: Struggles with accuracy and will force the ball into coverage. Doesn't protect the ball well. Has problems finding the open receiver when blitzed.

Bottom line: Has tremendous potential and the work ethic to succeed. Needs to make better decisions with the ball and develop more accuracy in the short to intermediate zones before he will be a trustworthy starter. **GRADE: 7.0**

T26. Doug Flutie, Chargers

5-10 180

Age: 39 9th year

Strengths: A tough, smart player who has good instincts and overall athletic ability. Still has the foot quickness that allows him to buy time and improvise. Has strong enough arm to throw the deep out and vertical ball.

Weaknesses: Short stature limits him as a passer near the red zone and in the pocket. Is not always accurate. Will make mistakes when he forces passes and tries to do too much.

Bottom line: Has unique talents and durability for an undersized player, but his days as a starter appear numbered. Is being pressed by Drew Brees for the starting job and may not cope well with being a backup. **GRADE: 7.0**

T26. Trent Green, Chiefs

6-3 210

Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Has nice size and a decent arm. Plays with poise. Has good overall athleticism and decent footwork. Is not afraid to stay in the pocket, take the hit and make the throw. Handles the ball well.

Weaknesses: Does not throw well on the run. Is not a threat to run. Has a tendency to lock on to one receiver. Is inconsistent.

Bottom line: Produced significant numbers in 2001 but must do a better job of protecting the ball and making good decisions this season. **GRADE: 7.0**

T26. Shane Matthews, Redskins

6-3 196

Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Has adequate mobility, quickness and good height. Is intelligent and can beat the blitz by making accurate throws under pressure. Does a good job protecting the ball. Leads receivers so they don't have to break stride while making the catch. Shows the ability to lead an offense down the field.

Weaknesses: Has a history of injuries and has little starting experience. Does not show

the ability to put zip on deeper passes. Does not have good speed and is not a threat to tuck the ball and run.

Bottom line: Adequate player who doesn't commit many turnovers and knows the Redskins' scheme but lacks prototypical arm strength. **GRADE: 7.0**

T30. Charlie Batch, Steelers

6-2 220

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has adequate arm strength and shows good accuracy. Has the footwork to buy a second chance in the pocket and does a good job of avoiding pressure. Is a threat to tuck the ball and run.

Weaknesses: Finished 2001 season on injured reserve because of a shoulder injury. Has had some difficulty protecting the ball and needs to make better decisions.

Bottom line: Former starter who must cut down on turnovers and stay healthy to be productive again. **GRADE: 6.9**

T30. Steve Buerlein, Broncos

6-3 220

Age: 37 16th year

Strengths: Shows the ability to take the big hit. Has good pocket presence. Is

mechanically sound as a passer and, if given time, is accurate. Makes excellent decisions with the ball.

Weaknesses: Age and injury are the two biggest concerns; he did not play at all last season because of an elbow problem. Is not a threat to tuck the ball and run.

Bottom line: Is an excellent backup and a capable or better starter—if his arm strength holds up and there are no lingering problems with his elbow. **GRADE: 6.9**

T30. Jeff Blake, Ravens

6-0 210

Age: 31 11th year

Strengths: Does a good job creating second chances with pocket awareness and quickness. Has excellent arm strength and accuracy. Makes big plays down the field.

Weaknesses: Struggles on timing routes. Is inconsistent. Tends to make poor decisions under pressure. Lacks good height.

Bottom line: Backup who lacks consistency but has shown flashes of brilliance. **GRADE: 6.9**

T30. Drew Brees, Chargers

6-0 221

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Can read defenses like a veteran though he is entering his second season. Is not a scrambler but has good feet and can avoid the rush. Has an excellent touch and can make all the throws. Is a student of the game and an avid film watcher. Handles pressure well.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size and physical skills desired in a quarterback. Does not put much zip on the deep out.

Bottom line: Has the talent and work ethic to be an effective starter for Chargers for many years. **GRADE: 6.9**

T30. Marques Tuiasosopo, Raiders

6-1 220

Age: 23 1st year

Strengths: A fiery player who has competitive instincts and leadership skills. Has above-average arm strength and quick feet. Can avoid the rush.

Weaknesses: Is not a true pocket passer because of his height. Tends to telegraph throws and sometimes drops his arm in release. Is not a runner.

Bottom line: The team's future quarterback got in a lot of quality work in the offseason and should continue to develop. **GRADE: 6.9**

T35. Matt Hasselbeck, Seahawks

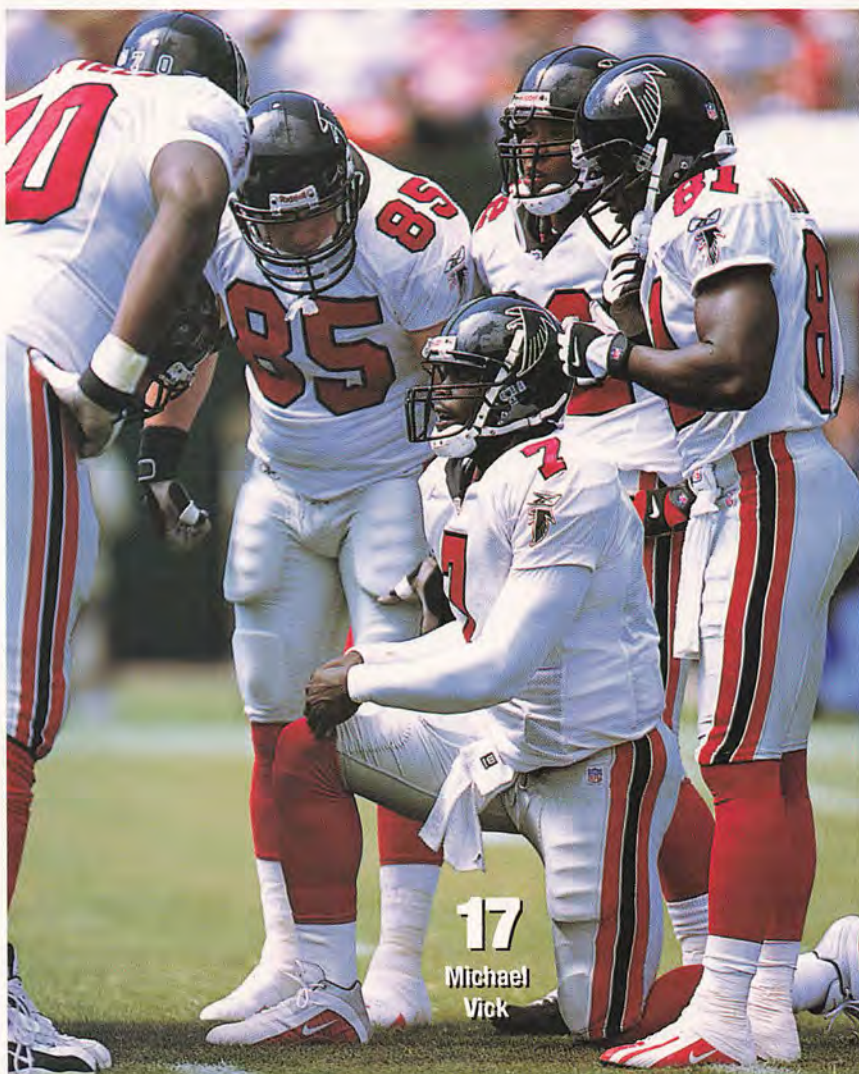
6-4 233

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good natural tools. Is tall and has a strong arm and adequate mobility. Has good enough arm strength to spread the ball around. Shows quick feet in the pocket.

Weaknesses: Gets frustrated and will force some throws. Does not have a great deep arm and passes tend to sail. Lacks great mobility and is not a threat to take off and run.

Bottom line: Extra time as a backup could help him learn the Seattle offense better and put him in position to push for the starting job again in a year or two. **GRADE: 6.8**



17
Michael
Vick

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



17
Vinny
Testaverde

BERNIE NUNEZ FOR TSN

T35. Rob Johnson, Buccaneers

6-4 212

Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Has size and athletic ability. Has good speed and can take off and run with the ball. Shows quickness in the pocket. Can pick apart a defense if given the time. Good accuracy and touch underneath.

Weaknesses: Does not make quick decisions with the ball. Takes too many sacks and hits. Has become less than durable. Must improve rhythm and timing.

Bottom line: The backup but a perfect fit for coach Jon Gruden's system. **GRADE: 6.8**

T35. Jon Kitna, Bengals

6-2 217

Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has good arm strength. Has enough athletic ability to make plays with his feet. Has decent pocket presence.

Weaknesses: Seems to have lost confidence. Does not see the field very well and sometimes tries to force the ball into tight spots. Must do a better job protecting the ball.

Bottom line: Is best suited to be a backup. **GRADE: 6.8**

T39. Tony Banks, free agent

6-4 230

Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent arm strength and the ability to make almost any throw. Shows tremendous accuracy and touch at times. Has excellent size.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent and will make bad decisions. Does not take care of the ball. Does not see the entire field and will throw into coverage.

Bottom line: A former starter who has not shown the consistency needed to lead an offense over the course of a season. A better fit as a reserve. **GRADE: 6.7**

T39. Ray Lucas, Dolphins

6-3 225

Age: 30 5th year

Strengths: Has good size, a strong arm and excellent mobility. Has shown the ability to pick up new schemes. Great competitor and a tough, physical runner. Has a lot of experience for a backup.

Weaknesses: Makes too many mistakes in reads and does not handle pressure well. Accuracy is marginal, and his ability to beat the blitz is not much better.

Bottom line: Outstanding athlete who is versatile but likely would struggle if forced into the starting lineup for an extended period. **GRADE: 6.7**

T39. Mike McMahon, Lions

6-2 213

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good weight and height. Shows tremendous speed and quickness and is an agile runner who creates second opportunities. Can throw the deep out and has a strong arm.

Weaknesses: Does not show accuracy or touch in the short to intermediate zone. Would rather run than wait for a receiver to come free.

Bottom line: Can move the offense but must improve consistency and ability to handle pressure. **GRADE: 6.7**

T39. Chris Redman, Ravens

6-3 223

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good arm strength and a quick release. Can throw the ball with great accuracy. Stays in the pocket and takes a hit.

Weaknesses: Can't scramble or buy a second chance. Doesn't always show great recognition. Tends to force the ball and make bad decisions. Has little speed.

Bottom line: Has little experience. Must improve his ability to find receivers quickly. Talented player who has a tough road ahead. **GRADE: 6.7**

T39. Akili Smith, Bengals

6-3 220

Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has nice size. Shows good quickness. Has the ability to buy a second chance in the pocket and is a threat to take off and run. Puts good zip on the deep out route.

Weaknesses: Does not see the entire field. Will lock on to a receiver. Shows little poise in the pocket. Throws a lot of balls into coverage.

Bottom line: Must show significant improvement this season to stay with the team. **GRADE: 6.7**

T39. Alex Van Pelt, Bills

6-1 218

Age: 32 7th year

Strengths: Is tough and durable. Shows a lot of poise in the pocket. Has adequate arm strength. Is good at reading coverages and finding the open receiver.

Weaknesses: Has trouble throwing the deep out, and his vertical throws tend to sail. Doesn't have much mobility. Is undersized and lacks the athletic ability to create passing windows.

Bottom line: Intelligent backup who understands the offense and proved capable of running it last season in the short term. **GRADE: 6.7**

T45. Gus Frerotte, Bengals

6-3 225

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Has good arm strength. Sees the entire field. Has excellent leadership skills. Is intelligent and shows good overall instincts.

Weaknesses: Will be adjusting to a new scheme. Is beginning to age. Has been extremely inconsistent throughout career. Occasionally makes bad decisions. Must do a better job of protecting the ball.

Bottom line: Has good overall skills but must be more consistent to be truly effective. **GRADE: 6.6**

T45. Shaun King, Buccaneers

6-0 225

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Can create on the run and outside of the pocket. Can burn a defense by running with the ball. Has adequate arm strength. Makes some spectacular throws and has a strong deep arm.

Weaknesses: Struggles in the pocket. Has trouble changing velocities and doesn't always throw a catchable ball. Locks on too much. Does not see entire field.

Bottom line: Creates a lot of production with his feet and shows toughness and competitiveness coach Jon Gruden loves.

T35. Bobby Hoyer, Raiders

6-3 220

Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has great arm strength and mobility and can move in the pocket. Has good overall skills; is fundamentally sound and intelligent.

Weaknesses: Finished 2001 on injured reserve. Never has played to potential and is inconsistent. Lacks experience and shows it with ill-advised throws, lack of patience and inability to spot outlet receivers.

Bottom line: Backup who could surprise but must regain the confidence he displayed earlier in his career. **GRADE: 6.8**

GRADE: 6.6

T47. Jeff Lewis, Saints

6-2 211

Age: 29 4th year

Strengths: Is a good athlete. Can hit receivers on the run. Has quick feet and can buy time in the pocket. Can take off and run.

Weaknesses: Makes mistakes if primary receiver is covered. Does not see the entire field. Does not show much leadership ability or toughness.

Bottom line: Had chances to step up as a No. 1 and did not perform. Is no more than a career backup. **GRADE: 6.5**

T47. Tim Rattay, 49ers

6-0 215

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Shows the ability to execute the offense, make good decisions and protect the ball. Has good overall mechanics and a quick release. Shows good touch on the deep ball and the ability to drop it in over coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size. Doesn't scramble as well as Jeff Garcia and has more trouble finding passing windows as a result.

Bottom line: Undersized, inexperienced backup who does not have great arm strength but is accurate and knows the scheme well enough to hold up in the short term. Eventually could replace Jeff Garcia as the 49ers' starter. **GRADE: 6.5**

T49. Todd Bouman, Vikings

6-2 229

Age: 30 5th year

Strengths: Shows good mobility and arm strength. Has adequate size. Can buy a second chance in the pocket. Has good instincts and size. Played well when given the opportunity last season.

Weaknesses: Deep ball is less accurate than underneath throws. Is inconsistent in beating the blitz and does not always make good decisions under pressure.

Bottom line: Backup who isn't likely to become a starter in Minnesota. Yet he has the confidence of teammates should Daunte Culpepper get hurt. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Koy Detmer, Eagles

6-1 195

Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Shows good mobility and the ability to create second chances. Understands role, is technically sound and is accurate. Makes excellent play fakes. Displays excellent touch on vertical routes.

Weaknesses: Frequently makes poor decisions under pressure. Lacks ideal bulk and strength. Does not have the arm strength to throw into tight spots.

Bottom line: Backup who lacks arm strength and needs to protect the ball better. But he always is prepared, throws a catchable ball and understands the Eagles' scheme. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Kelly Holcomb, Browns

6-2 212

Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Takes care of the ball and makes few mistakes. Has the ability to find the open receiver in a timing offense. Works hard at the game.

Weaknesses: Does not put great zip on his deep-out passes. Is ineffective when throwing in the face of the rush. Does not have great mechanics. Lacks consistency.

Bottom line: Doesn't do anything especially well but is smart and talented enough to be a backup. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Brock Huard, Colts

6-4 232

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good size, arm and work ethic. Sees the entire field and has excellent mechanics. Gets rid of the ball quickly from the pocket.

Weaknesses: Doesn't make good decisions under pressure. Is a streaky passer. Needs to improve overall strength and durability. Accuracy is inconsistent on deep balls.

Bottom line: Is an adequate backup who has the arm strength and intelligence to develop into a starter. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Damon Huard, Patriots

6-3 215

Age: 29 3rd year

Strengths: Is well prepared, studies a lot of film and can move an offense for a short period of time. Has adequate arm strength and good accuracy.

Weaknesses: Cannot throw the ball on a rope and struggles when trying to avoid the rush. Has difficulty picking up the blitz and is sacked too often.

Bottom line: A veteran who has had chances to start but now is a solid backup. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Tommy Maddox, Steelers

6-4 220

Age: 31 6th year

Strengths: A rhythm passer who has excellent overall touch and a good feel for receivers. An accurate thrower. Excels on short to intermediate routes. Puts the ball in good spots for wide receivers.

Weaknesses: Arm is merely adequate. Throws lack velocity. Forces balls into coverage. Deep ball tends to sail. Not a threat to run; lacks mobility.

Bottom line: An intelligent and confident player who can run the Steelers' offense as a backup. Does not have overall skills to be starter for long period. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Jamie Martin, Rams

6-2 205

Age: 32 8th year

Strengths: Has adequate size and good mobility. Can make progression reads and has good vision in the pocket. Has a quick release. Prepares well for every game and is intelligent.

Weaknesses: Lacks great zip, and his deep passes tend to sail. Will force throws into coverage, even when not under pressure.

Bottom line: Adequate backup who lacks ideal arm strength but is better prepared to step in after a full year in the Rams' system. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Cade McNown, 49ers

6-1 210

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Athletic player who has adequate arm strength. Scrambles well and has good speed. Does a good job getting rid of the ball

just before being hit. Shows excellent accuracy at times.

Weaknesses: Struggles to find his touch. Does not have a good feel for the passing game; appears to be uncomfortable in the pocket. Lack of height makes it difficult for him to find passing windows.

Bottom line: Will try to resurrect his career with his third team in less than a year. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Neil O'Donnell, Titans

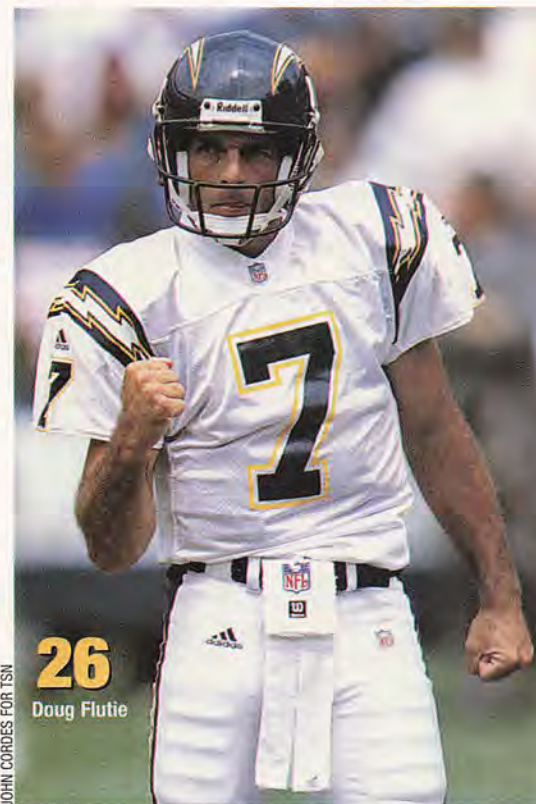
6-3 228

Age: 36 13th year

Strengths: Has excellent overall starting experience and always is ready to play. Sees the whole field and does a good job of finding the open receiver.

Weaknesses: Is not able to avoid pressure in the pocket. Does not put the same velocity on his passes. Is not a threat to tuck the ball and run.

Bottom line: Has been one of the best backup quarterbacks in the league since joining the Titans and still is because of his experience, leadership skills and the ability to find the open receiver. **GRADE: 6.4**



26
Doug Flutie

T49. Doug Pederson, Packers

6-3 220

Age: 34 10th year

Strengths: Shows good poise, handles pressure well and protects the ball. Has a good touch in the short to intermediate passing game.

Weaknesses: Does not have a lot of velocity on deeper throws. Is inexperienced and aging.

Bottom line: A quality backup who has not gotten many opportunities playing behind

Brett Favre. Lacks ideal arm strength but can get the job done in the short term. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Chad Pennington, Jets

6-3 225 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Shows good touch, accuracy and efficiency. Can force the ball into tight spots. Has a good feel for the short and intermediate passing games. Has good poise for a younger quarterback.

Weaknesses: Must be more aggressive. Shows limited ability to throw on the run and not a threat to take off and run. Lacks experience.

Bottom line: Likely never will have ideal strength. Has the accuracy and mobility in the pocket eventually to take over the starting role. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Jonathan Quinn, Chiefs

6-6 239 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: A strong stint in NFL Europe before the 2001 season seemed to help his confidence. Has a strong arm, good size and good athleticism. Has excellent straight-line speed and is a threat to tuck the ball and run.

Weaknesses: Is inexperienced. Lacks ideal lateral mobility and struggles to sidestep pressure in the pocket. Must improve pre-snap reads, overall field vision and decision-making.

Bottom line: Has the potential to become an effective starter with experience. Should play his way into backup job. **GRADE: 6.4**

T49. Spergon Wynn, Vikings

6-3 226 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good athletic ability and can buy a second chance in the pocket. Has good size, strength and speed. Has good arm strength and is capable of making any throw.

Weaknesses: Makes a lot of mistakes under pressure and does not show the ability to beat the blitz. Accuracy is inconsistent, especially on deep passes. Does not have a quick release. Still is raw.

Bottom line: Developmental player who must improve his mental game but has athletic ability and arm strength. **GRADE: 6.4**

T62. Todd Collins, Chiefs

6-4 219 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has good size, athleticism and arm strength. Throws a nice, tight spiral. Gets good velocity on deep outs and can make all the throws. Reads defenses well.

Weaknesses: Inconsistent. Does not have great instincts. Does not make quick decisions. Too deliberate in his release. Lacks confidence.

Bottom line: Has good arm strength and mobility but must improve consistency. **GRADE: 6.2**

T62. Chris Greisen, Cardinals

6-3 219 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good size and a serviceable arm. Shows good accuracy. Understands hot reads and is a tough competitor.



Weaknesses: Lacks mobility. Is not a threat to tuck the ball and run. Struggles putting good velocity on the deep ball.

Bottom line: Is the immediate backup but is inexperienced, lacks ideal arm strength and likely would struggle if forced into the lineup. **GRADE: 6.2**

T62. Jarious Jackson, Broncos

6-0 228 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good strength and the raw tools to succeed. Has the ability to get the ball downfield.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal height for a quarterback. Does not see the entire field. Has a tendency to take off and run too soon. Does not show the ability to go to his No. 2 or No. 3 options. Needs to improve his pre-snap reads.

Bottom line: Has the arm strength, athleticism and work ethic to develop into an effective backup for the Broncos—and possibly a starter in the future. **GRADE: 6.2**

T62. Doug Johnson, Falcons

6-2 225 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size and is tough. Will stand in the pocket and take hits. Strong enough to throw the deep out. Is a hard worker.

Weaknesses: Shoulder and elbow problems are a concern. Needs more work on developing a feel for reads and blitz recognition. Makes poor decisions when rushed.

Bottom line: Lack of experience and inconsistent decision-making make him a marginal No. 2 quarterback. **GRADE: 6.2**

T62. Ryan Leaf, Seahawks

6-5 248 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has great size and is exceptionally

strong. Can make all the throws. Has a strong lower body and can throw off his back foot.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent. Does not see the entire field, leading to mistakes under pressure. Lack of conditioning is a concern. Decisions with the ball are poor.

Bottom line: Has the tools to be a No. 1 quarterback but still is on the fringe. **GRADE: 6.2**

T67. Rick Mirer, Raiders

6-3 212 Age: 32 7th year

Strengths: Can move in pocket and run the ball. Is bright and has good overall physical skills.

Weaknesses: Tends to lock on receivers and squeeze the ball into tight coverage. Is inconsistent overall and makes mistakes throwing the ball into coverage. Struggles to protect the ball. Is inconsistent overall.

Bottom line: Adds depth to the roster. **GRADE: 6.1**

T68. Ty Detmer, Lions

6-0 194 Age: 34 11th year

Strengths: Shows some timing as a passer and the ability to hit receivers on the move. Can pick up the blitz and make progression reads in the pocket. Protects the ball and rarely makes mistakes.

Weaknesses: Accuracy worsens as passes get longer. Lacks ideal size and strength; durability a concern.

Bottom line: No. 3 quarterback who is intelligent and capable in the short to intermediate game but is aging and immobile and lacks arm strength. **GRADE: 6.0**

T68. A.J. Feeley, Eagles

6-3 217 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Shows enough quickness to avoid the rush and good size. Has an over-the-top delivery and nice skills in the short-to-intermediate passing game.

Weaknesses: Has trouble with accuracy in the vertical passing game; deep ball tends to sail. Has had injury problems. Needs to improve ability to read coverages. Has below-average arm strength. Tends to have trouble handling the ball and fumbles far too much.

Bottom line: No. 3 quarterback who lacks ideal arm strength but could push for the backup job next season with more experience in the Eagles' scheme. **GRADE: 6.0**

T68. Todd Husak, Broncos

6-3 216 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Is intelligent. Does a good job of making pre-snap reads and beating the blitz. Has the ability to lay the ball in over coverage.

Weaknesses: Is not a threat to tuck the ball and run. Is an inconsistent deep passer. Struggles when throwing sideline passes. Excelled in NFL Europe but has little NFL experience.

Bottom line: Potential is limited because of lack of ideal arm strength and athletic ability. Probably never will be an effective NFL starter. **GRADE: 6.0**

T68. Sage Rosenfels, Redskins

6-4 218 Age: 24 1st year

Strengths: Has excellent speed and mobility. Can create while on the run. Shows good touch on the deep ball. Has good arm strength.

Weaknesses: Does not look comfortable in the pocket. Has a sidearm delivery and lacks overall accuracy and consistency. Release is too slow. Tends to force the ball into coverage.

Bottom line: Should get better with experience but must improve mechanics. **GRADE: 6.0**

T72. Josh Booty, Browns

6-2 217 Age: 27 2nd year

Has a strong arm but is not very accurate. Lack of experience and marginal instincts make this former two-sport phenom no more than a No. 3 quarterback. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Marc Bulger, Rams

6-2 206 Age: 25 1st year

Lacks ideal arm strength and athleticism but makes quick decisions and has enough accuracy to develop into an effective backup. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Randall Cunningham, free agent

6-4 215 Age: 39 15th year

Aging veteran who no longer has big-play abilities and is not likely to learn a new scheme at this point. Has played well when given the opportunity and is a valued reserve. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Dave Dickenson, Chargers

5-11 185 Age: 29 1st year

Can make plays, read defenses and has some big-play flair. Was effective in the CFL but is undersized, lacks arm strength and doesn't have a quick release. Not a long-term answer for any team. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Joe Germaine, Chiefs

6-2 220 Age: 27 4th year

Developmental player who has good size and athleticism but did not play well in NFL Europe this off-season. Has not progressed as expected or shown ability to make quick decisions. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Jesse Palmer, Giants

6-2 219 Age: 23 2nd year

Has good overall arm strength and plays well enough in practice to win the backup job but is inexperienced and probably would struggle if forced to start. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Mike Quinn, Texans

6-4 215 Age: 28 4th year

Is a dropback passer who has good size and arm strength but never has mastered the art of beating the blitz. Forces the ball into coverage at times. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Roderick Robinson, Jaguars

6-3 235 Age: 26 1st year

Has nice size, good athleticism and a strong arm but never has settled in as a NFL quarterback. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Clint Stoerner, Cowboys

6-2 210 Age: 24 2nd year

Is capable of improving but lacks ideal arm strength. Will need to prove he can protect ball before challenging for a backup role, let alone a shot at playing time. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Kevin Thompson, Browns

6-5 236 Age: 24 2nd year

Gained some experience in NFL Europe but nagging injuries have impeded his progress. Has a good arm but is not very mobile. Projects as a third-stringer in the NFL. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Billy Volek, Titans

6-2 214 Age: 26 3rd year

Has shown considerable improvement since entering the league and with continued progress, could develop into an effective backup. Not capable of winning games but won't lose them. **GRADE: 5.9**

T72. Danny Wuerffel, Redskins

6-1 212 Age: 28 6th year

Intelligent player who is familiar with the scheme and makes good decisions but lacks the arm strength to play a prominent role. **GRADE: 5.9**

T84. Jake Delhomme, Saints

6-2 205 Age: 27 4th year

Doesn't have much upside but is a good emergency quarterback. Is a marginal No. 2. Knows the offense well and always is prepared. **GRADE: 5.8**

T84. Joe Hamilton, Buccaneers

5-10 190 Age: 25 3rd year

Has all the tools of an NFL quarterback except

height. Expected to miss the season because of a knee injury. **GRADE: 5.8**

T84. Tee Martin, Steelers

6-2 225 Age: 24 3rd year

Spent summer in NFL Europe. Acquisition of Charlie Batch might make Martin odd man out. **GRADE: 5.8**

T84. Cory Sauter, Colts

6-4 215 Age: 27 3rd year

Developmental player who likely will remain a No. 3—at best—until he shows improved ability against the blitz and mobility to avoid the rush. **GRADE: 5.8**

T84. Anthony Wright, Cowboys

6-1 207 Age: 26 3rd year

Is a raw backup who can avoid the rush and create but lacks ideal arm strength and must improve his accuracy and consistency. **GRADE: 5.8**

89. Giovanni Carmazzi, free agent

6-3 224 Age: 25 1st year

A third-round draft choice of the 49ers in 2000, he has a strong arm but has been unable to stay healthy, slowing his development. **GRADE: 5.7**

T90. Josh Heupel, free agent

6-2 215 Age: 24 1st year

Undersized, accurate reserve who has good vision.



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Lacks ideal arm strength and mobility and is coming off a wrist injury. **GRADE: 5.5**

T90. Cleo Lemon, Ravens

6-2 226 Age: 23 1st year

Has good size, speed and arm strength. Has a nice upside, but learning curve in Baltimore might be greater than he can handle. **GRADE: 5.5**

T90. Tory Woodbury, Jets

6-2 208 Age: 24 2nd year

Is an outstanding athlete and excellent runner in the open field. Might get a shot at running back or receiver. **GRADE: 5.5**

93. Rodney Peete, Panthers

6-0 230 Age: 36 14th year

Coaches are comfortable with his experience and leadership, but if he is forced to play for any extended period, the Panthers would be in trouble. **GRADE: 5.4**

game and a good demeanor. Can't carry an offense and isn't even a good enough No. 2 man. **GRADE: 4.9**

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. David Carr, Texans

6-3 223 Fresno State, 1st round

Strengths: Has excellent size. Shows good velocity on his passes. Does not take a lot of sacks. Has an excellent feel in the pocket. Has good toughness and can take a hit. Excels in a short-timing passing game in which he can use his vision and decision-making to make plays.

Weaknesses: Occasionally forces the ball into coverage and takes some chances. Does not have great speed or ability to scramble out of the pocket.

Bottom line: Has the advantage of being ready to play early because he knew he was going to be Houston's first pick. The only thing holding him back is lack of experience. **GRADE: 9.7**

2. Joey Harrington, Lions

6-4 215 Oregon, 1st round

Strengths: Is tall and well-built. Shows good zip on deep out patterns. Has a quick setup and release and has good timing and accuracy. Is a student of the game and is always prepared. Has excellent pocket presence and isn't afraid to stay in and take the big hit. Displays good instincts and strong leadership skills.

Weaknesses: Makes ill-advised throws, tends to lock on to a receiver and forces balls into coverage when under pressure. Isn't much of a threat to run.

Bottom line: Has the arm strength, footwork and accuracy to develop into an effective player but likely will struggle early. **GRADE: 9.6**

3. Kurt Kittner, Falcons

6-2 221 Illinois, 5th round

Strengths: Has good mechanics. Shows an outstanding feel for coverages. Is sound mechanically with a consistent, quick and smooth delivery. Displays quick footwork, instincts and decisiveness.

Weaknesses: Has trouble throwing the deep ball. Doesn't show great zip on the deep routes. Doesn't show the strength to throw consistently on the run. Is a bit slow and is not a threat to run.

Bottom line: Is a gem in terms of productivity and leadership. Lacks ideal arm strength, speed and size. Will be buried behind franchise quarterback Michael Vick and the young, talented Doug Johnson. **GRADE: 8.0**

4. Patrick Ramsey, Redskins

6-2 219 Tulane, 1st round

Makes good decisions, has a strong arm and is intelligent. Is able to throw the deep out and shows good zip on timing routes. Has a great release and gets rid of the ball quickly. Has limited mobility in

the pocket and is not a threat to run. Pocket passer coach Steve Spurrier will try to develop into an eventual starter. **GRADE: 7.4**

5. Rohan Davey, Patriots

6-2 245 LSU, 4th round

Big, physical player who has a strong arm and solid mechanics. Eventually could become a starting quarterback if he can overcome his weaknesses, the biggest of which is a tendency to force balls into coverage. **GRADE: 7.2**

6. David Garrard, Jaguars

6-1 237 East Carolina, 4th round

Has one of the stronger arms of the rookie quarterbacks. Consistency, accuracy and understanding of defenses all must improve, but he looked good enough in minicamps to assume No. 2 job behind Mark Brunell. **GRADE: 6.9**

7. Josh McCown, Cardinals

6-4 223 Sam Houston State, 3rd round

Developmental player who has a strong arm and is elusive but forces passes and lacks accuracy. Is inconsistent. **GRADE: 6.5**

8. Randy Fasani, Panthers

6-3 234 Stanford, 5th round

Is big, strong and athletic, but overall passing skills are adequate. Has the tools that could push Chris Weinke as starter in two or three years. **GRADE: 5.8**

9. J.T. O'Sullivan, Saints

6-2 220 UC-Davis, 6th round

Has the arm strength, quick feet and intelligence to be a backup. Quick release and accuracy make him nice fit for West Coast offense. **GRADE: 5.3**

10. Ronald Curry, Raiders

6-1 220 North Carolina, 7th round

Developmental player who could play a role in short-yardage or goal-line situations because of his athleticism and versatility. **GRADE: 4.0**

11. Wes Pate, Ravens

6-2 228 Stephen F. Austin, 7th round

Big, physical player who showed a lot of improvement his senior year. Has strong arm. Is tough and competitive. **GRADE: 4.0**

12. Seth Burford, Chargers

6-3 241 Cal Poly-SLO, 7th round

A raw prospect who must develop skills, including a quicker release, better footwork and improved quickness. **GRADE: 3.8**

13. Brandon Doman, 49ers

6-1 210 BYU, 5th round

Developmental player who has the mechanics, timing and mobility to excel in the 49ers' scheme. Doesn't have a rifle arm. **GRADE: 3.2**

T14. Jeff Kelly, Seahawks

6-1 210 Southern Miss, 7th round

Is nimble and has a marginal arm and good toughness. Doesn't have the arm strength or speed to have an impact this season. **GRADE: 3.0**

T14. Zak Kustok, Dolphins

6-1 203 Northwestern undrafted free agent

Lacks natural tools but makes up for it with intelligent play. Has the ability to develop into an effective backup with time. **GRADE: 3.0**

T14. Craig Nall, Packers

6-3 227 Northwestern State, 5th round

Is intelligent. Does an excellent job reading coverages but has just adequate arm strength. **GRADE: 3.0**



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

94. Travis Brown, Bills

6-3 122 Age: 25 1st year

Accurate and smart No. 3 quarterback who lacks ideal arm strength and needs at least another season to develop technique and improve consistency. **GRADE: 5.3**

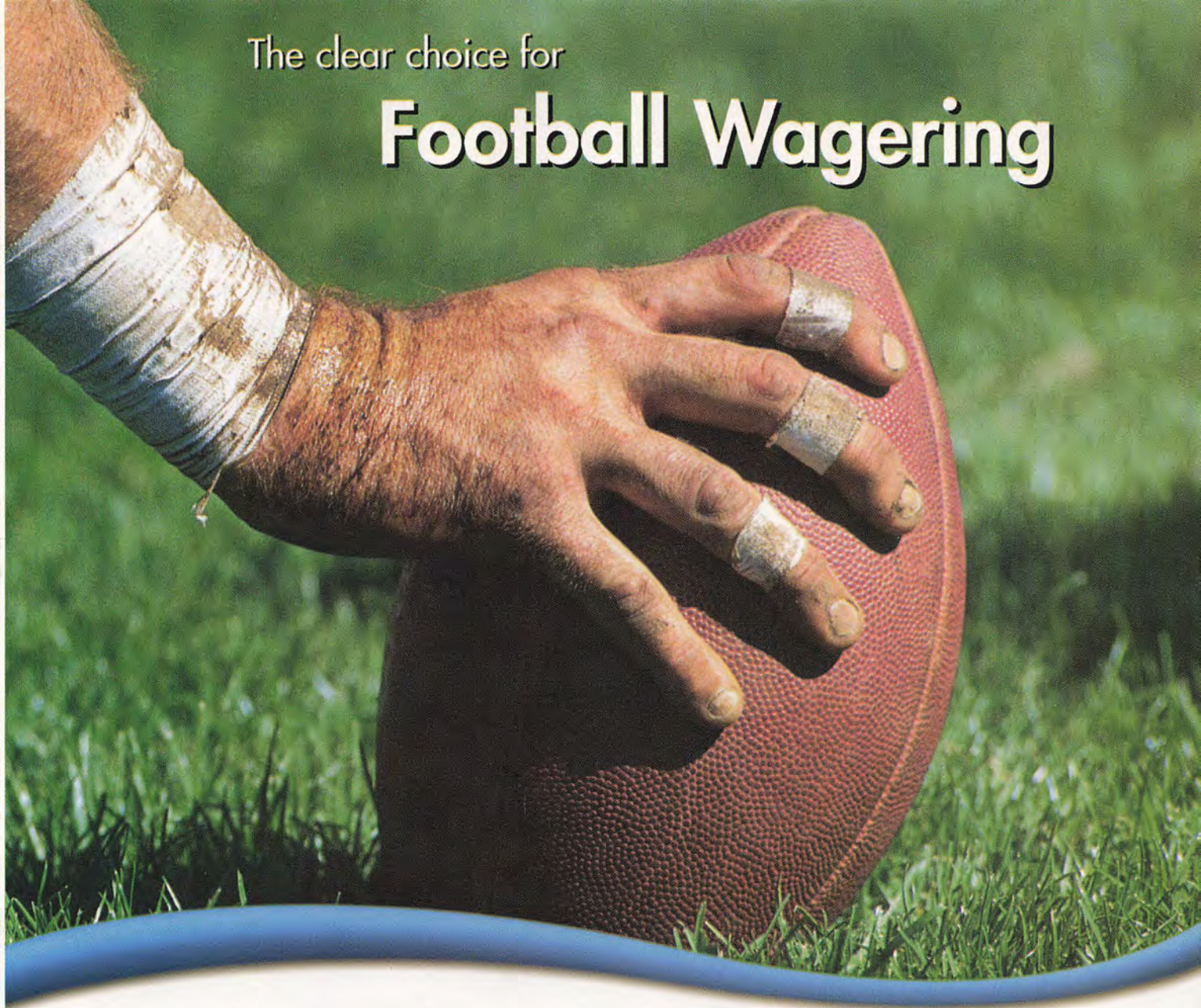
95. Kent Graham, Texans

6-6 248 Age: 33 11th year

An intelligent backup who has a good feel for the

The clear choice for

Football Wagering



- Complete Sportsbook
- Cash Bonuses
- Rewards Program
- 24/7 Customer Service
- 20 Casino Games
- Bet Online or By Phone

If you think all gaming sites are alike, think again. Since 1996, VIPsports.com has been an industry leader in providing quality wagering to countless customers worldwide. Our commitment to integrity, service and customer satisfaction has made VIPsports.com the clear choice of winners everywhere.

VIPsports.com
1.800.608.4VIP (4847)

VP
SPORTS
Where The World Wagers

1. Marshall Faulk, Rams

5-10 211

Age: 29 9th year

Strengths: Possesses an exceptional combination of speed and quickness. Has tremendous vision and instincts as a runner, with great elusiveness in the open field. Is patient but still has a great burst through the hole.

Willing to lower the shoulder but does a nice job of protecting his body from big hits.

Displays a second gear in the open field and consistently is able to turn the corner. Has great understanding of the passing game.

Runs smooth routes, is capable of lining up out wide and is able to create mismatches against most linebackers and some safeties. Shows the ability to catch the ball away from his body, on the run and over his head.

Weaknesses: Is just an average blocker and lacks both bulk and strength at the point of attack. As he heads toward 30, there are some durability concerns.

Bottom line: The most explosive back in the league and just as important to the Rams' offense as Kurt Warner. His versatility is impossible to replace. **GRADE: 9.8**

2. Edgerrin James, Colts

6-0 214

Age: 24 4th year

Strengths: A big-play runner who has good size and the ability to take over a game. Has the power to pound the ball between the tackles and the speed to bounce outside and run away from defenders. Displays excellent change-of-direction skills and the ability to make defenders miss in the open field. Is an outstanding receiver out of the backfield. Does a great job of picking up the blitz.

Weaknesses: No technical flaws, but needs to bounce back from knee injury that caused him to miss 10 games last season.

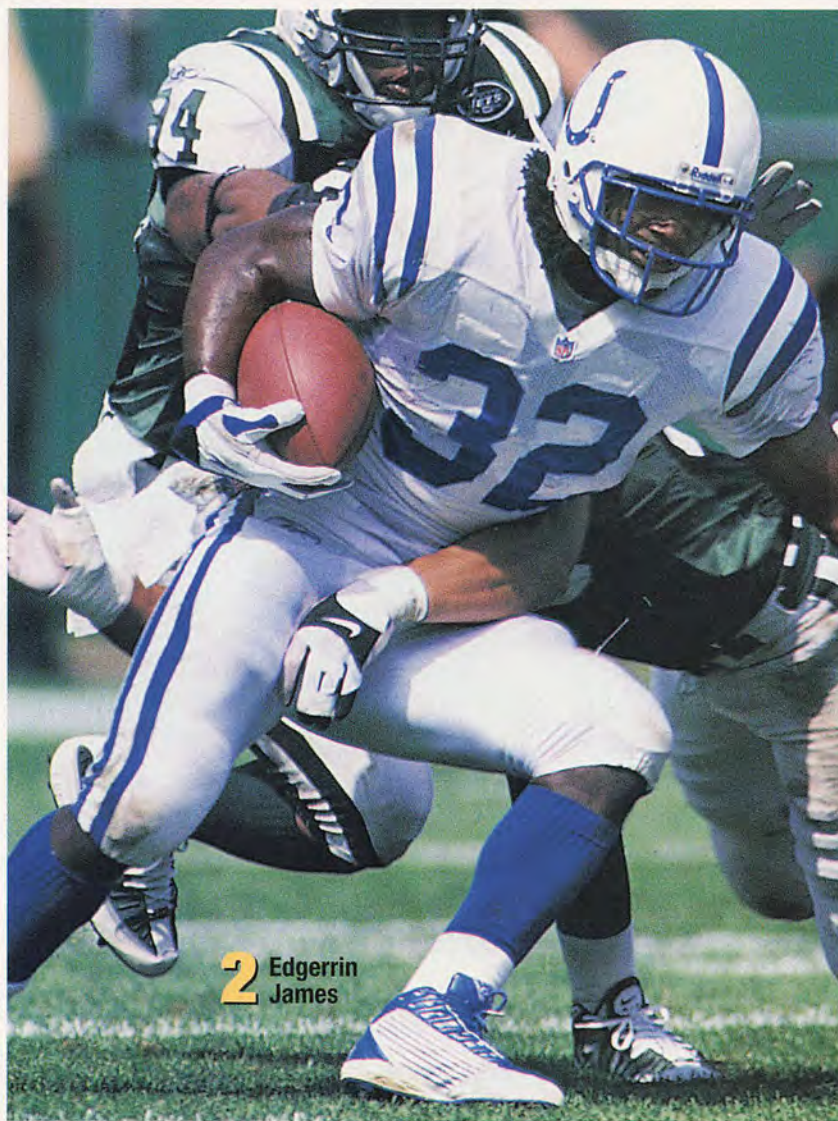
Bottom line: Because of what should be improved defensive play and better production from the receivers, James might regain his title as the league's leading rusher, especially with backup Dominic Rhodes helping him stay rested and healthy. **GRADE: 9.6**

3. Curtis Martin, Jets

5-11 205

Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Shows good balance and great lower-body strength. Has exceptional instincts and awareness in the running and passing game and is extremely competitive. Shows good burst through the hole. Has good vision. Is powerful enough to pound the ball



2 Edgerrin James

JOB REQUIREMENTS

	Ht.	Wt.	40
NFL optimum	6-0	225	4.40
NFL minimum	5-8	190	4.60

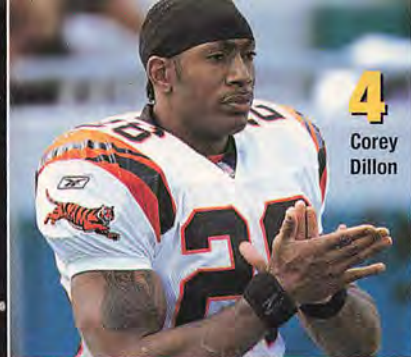
Marshall Faulk has revolutionized the position, and today's premier running backs must contribute in all aspects of the game. The back must have vision to find the hole, patience to allow blocks to develop in front of him and explosiveness to and through the hole. He must have reliable hands, run sharp pass routes and pick up the blitzing linebacker. Teams want an effective runner between the tackles who creates mismatches in the passing game.

between the tackles. Has been durable, not missing a game since 1998, and has shown no signs of slowing.

Weaknesses: Is not much of a blocker. Does not make big plays but consistently picks up 3 to 5 yards a carry.

Bottom line: Is one of the more reliable, consistent and productive backs in the league, having rushed for more than 1,000 yards each of his seven seasons, including a career-high 1,513 yards last season. He won't be running behind the same offensive line he relied on in recent years but should be among the top backs in the league.

GRADE: 9.4



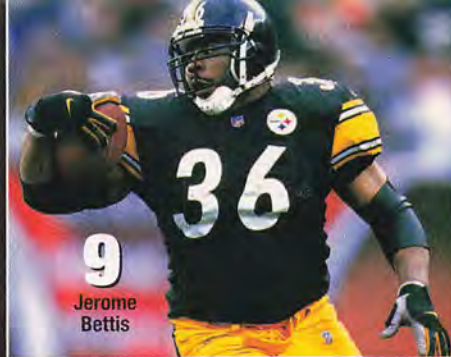
4
Corey
Dillon

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



8
Shaun
Alexander

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN



9
Jerome
Bettis

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

4. Corey Dillon, Bengals

6-1 225

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Runs low to the ground and with an extremely strong base. Does a good job of pumping the legs and excels at picking up tough yards after contact. Has the speed to turn the corner. Has rare vision for a power runner. Is a willing blocker. Does a good job of recognizing and picking up the blitz.

Weaknesses: Does not show a second gear in the open field. Is not a productive receiver. Had knee problems last year.

Bottom line: Offense has been built around this power back, even though offensive coordinator Bob Bratkowski will look to open up the passing game. **GRADE: 9.2**

5. Ahman Green, Packers

6-0 217

Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Shows good change of direction, elusiveness and excellent acceleration in the open field. Has become more patient, with better vision, and finds cutback lanes. Has adequate size and great speed. Explodes in and out of cuts and shows great initial burst. Stays low, initiates contact and picks up yards after contact as a receiver and as a runner. Can pick up a blitzing linebacker and hold up at point of attack. Is catching the ball more consistently and away from the body. Still is young and has only two seasons of wear and tear on his body after hardly playing in Seattle.

Weaknesses: Has small hands and has difficulty holding onto the ball.

Bottom line: A complete, versatile back who has a rare combination of power and big-play ability. Is one of the biggest keys to the success of the Packers' offense and should continue to improve with experience. **GRADE: 9.0**

6. Ricky Williams, Dolphins

5-10 230

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good size, speed and power. Can run between the tackles and bounce it

outside. Shows good explosiveness through the hole. Runs with a good base and delivers a blow upon contact. Has good balance and vision. Can run over defenders or make them miss in the open field. Is an excellent receiver.

Weaknesses: Has had problems with ball security; has 20 fumbles in 38 career games. Tends to wear down late in the season, so conditioning must improve. Has struggled with injuries. Lacks big-play speed.

Bottom line: Has the tools to flourish in the Dolphins' conservative scheme and has shown an impressive work ethic since joining the team in March. A fresh start might help him take the next step. **GRADE: 8.6**

7. Priest Holmes, Chiefs

5-9 213

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Able to control the clock with a lot of carries. Outstanding durability. Makes good cuts, is patient and has superb overall body control. An excellent receiver. Catches the ball away from the body and has very reliable hands.

Weaknesses: Lacks the elusiveness in the open field to be a threat after the catch. Takes a lot of big hits. Is not overly physical and lacks ideal size. Struggles to pick up the blitz. Does not run great routes.

Bottom line: The league's leading rusher last year was the focus of this offense during 2001, but the Chiefs probably will try to throw more in 2002. **GRADE: 8.2**

8. Shaun Alexander, Seahawks

5-11 220

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: A tough inside runner with good leg drive. Has exceptional lower-body strength and a technically sound running style. Will deliver blow to defenders and does a good job of picking up yards after contact. Has excellent vision and the ability to locate cutback lanes. Displays good balance and great body control. A bruising outside

runner with good receiving skills. Shows outstanding explosiveness through the hole.

Weaknesses: Does not have great speed. Has had problems with fumbling and needs to focus on securing the ball. Has trouble blocking bigger and stronger blitzing linebackers. Needs to attack the line of scrimmage with more aggressiveness.

Bottom line: Young starter with upper-echelon skills. Could be one of the better, more versatile backs in 2002. **GRADE: 8.0**

T9. Tiki Barber, Giants

5-10 200

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent vision, poise and balance. Runs with power more than most backs his size; lowers the shoulder and delivers the blow. Does a good job changing direction while running inside. As a receiver, adjusts to the ball in the air and consistently creates separation from coverage. As a punt returner, he has reliable hands and rarely makes a mistake.

Weaknesses: Undersized. Durability problems during last two seasons. Not a great blocker; gets driven back by a blitzing linebacker.

Bottom line: One of the league's most versatile and potentially explosive backs. He lacks the bulk to be an every-down back. **GRADE: 7.9**

T9. Jerome Bettis, Steelers

5-11 255

Age: 30 10th year

Strengths: Very physical and powerful north-south running back with balance, vision and surprising speed for size. Will break arm tackles with explosiveness. Good awareness in pass protection. Gets stronger as games progress.

Weaknesses: Missed time in 2001 with groin injury; durability a question. Does not work well in space. Not much of a pass receiver.

Bottom line: Worked hard in offseason to be in top condition. Will benefit from perimeter

ON THE RISE: LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers

Given that he has a year of experience and because of new coach Marty Schottenheimer's conservative approach, Tomlinson is poised for a big season.

ON THE DECLINE: Lamar Smith, Panthers

He isn't very elusive, which means he takes a lot of big hits, and he's aging, which means he's slowing down. Don't expect him to resurrect his career in Carolina.

SLEEPER: Dominic Rhodes, Colts

He rushed for 1,104 yards after Edgerrin James was injured last season. Look for coordinator Tom Moore to keep Rhodes involved, even with James back.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Fred Taylor, Jaguars

He's one of the most explosive backs in the league, but he never has been able to stay healthy for a full season.

BEST INSIDE POWER: Jerome Bettis, Steelers

Though he can't bounce outside and outrun defenders in the open field, Bettis excels because he lowers his shoulder and picks up tough yards after contact.

BEST OUTSIDE SPEED: Edgerrin James, Colts

He's coming off of knee surgery, but when healthy, James is one of the most versatile backs in the league and shows a rare second gear in the open field.

BEST RECEIVER: Warrick Dunn, Falcons

He wants to be a feature back, but he's at his best catching the ball out of the backfield. He often turns a small gain into a big play.

MOST VERSATILE: Marshall Faulk, Rams

If he doesn't beat teams with his vision and balance as a runner, he beats them with his speed and athleticism as a receiver out of the backfield.

passing game and will find more holes in defenses. Look for him to produce big numbers. **GRADE: 7.9**

T9. Eddie George, Titans

6-3 240 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has a powerful style of running and shows the ability to wear down a defense with 20-plus carries. Shows the ability to make the defender miss. Is a reliable blocker in the passing game.

Weaknesses: Was slowed by injuries all of last year and had problems fumbling the ball. Will struggle to adjust to the ball in the air as a receiver.

Bottom line: If healthy, should regain his old form as an elite back in this league. Will benefit from the addition of free agent full-back Greg Comella. **GRADE: 7.9**

T9. Fred Taylor, Jaguars

6-1 231 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has outstanding speed and is difficult to catch from behind. Shows outstanding burst. Has great vision and balance. Has excellent lateral quickness. Lowers his shoulder and picks up yards after contact. Easily could be a 1,500-yard runner and 50-reception player.

Weaknesses: Is injury prone; lack of durability is keeping him from greatness. Is not a great anchor blocker in pass protection. Struggles to pick up the blitz.

Bottom line: When healthy, one of the more talented running backs in the league. **GRADE: 7.9**

T13. Stephen Davis, Redskins

6-0 234 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Shows good burst to the hole. Has good lower-body strength, runs with leverage and knows how to lower his shoulder and deliver a blow. Is patient and decisive and has good vision. Adequate blocker in the passing game; attacks blocks with good leverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal speed and change of direction skills. Elusiveness has declined over the past two years. Isn't capable of creating room to run and needs effective blocking in front of him to be productive.

Bottom line: Power back who is most effective getting 25 to 30 carries a game but lacks the speed and receiving skills to have a big year in coach Steve Spurrier's offensive schemes. **GRADE: 7.8**

T13. Charlie Garner, Raiders

5-10 195 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Durable and has great quickness; takes few direct hits because he's so shifty. Has excellent vision. A threat to spread the field vertically and creates mismatches in the passing game. A willing blocker who isn't afraid to throw his body around.

Weaknesses: Produced less than expected last season. Is undersized and is not used often in blocking schemes or pass protection.

Bottom line: Starter who remains the key to

the running game. If healthy, he should compile impressive numbers. **GRADE: 7.8**

T13. Garrison Hearst, 49ers

5-11 215 Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Has excellent overall instincts and a feel for where holes will open up. Has a good first step and excellent vision and has developed patience. Runs hard and doesn't hesitate to lower his shoulder and pick up yards after contact. Capable of picking up blitzing linebackers and shows reliable hands as a receiver.

Weaknesses: Missed the 1999 and 2000 seasons with a severe ankle injury and no longer has the change-of-direction skills he once did. Doesn't show a second gear and isn't going top outrun most defenders.

Bottom line: Durability is a huge concern, but he still is a productive runner who can get the tough yards. Probably will get fewer carries this year as Kevan Barlow gets more. **GRADE: 7.8**

T13. LaDainian Tomlinson, Chargers

5-10 221 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent initial quickness and an explosive first step, with power and leg drive. Plays with great balance and a low center of gravity. Is a workhorse who will gain the tough yards and is rarely brought down by the first tackler. Has good hands and can catch out of the backfield. Is a capable blocker and can pick up the blitz.

Weaknesses: Is not necessarily a big-play threat or a flashy runner with an assortment of moves.

Bottom line: Surpassed all expectations as a rookie, excelling in all facets of the game. If the Chargers develop a productive passing game, he will improve on his impressive rookie statistics. **GRADE: 7.8**

T17. Thomas Jones, Cardinals

5-10 211 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has good natural tools. Is a tough inside runner and runs technically sound. Has a second gear in the open field. Has the speed to get to the corner.

Weaknesses: Doesn't wait for holes to open. Lacks instincts and confidence. Average blocker. Does not sacrifice his body and needs technical work on finishing blocks.

Bottom line: Has the tools to have a breakout year but must be more patient, show better vision and stay healthy. Must prove he can carry the load full time. **GRADE: 7.7**

T17. Jamal Lewis, Ravens

5-11 231 Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Short, squat back who has extremely powerful base. Does an excellent job of running behind his pads. Aggressive runner who fights for extra yards inside. Has an excellent burst and an outstanding first step. Changes direction well.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have great hands in the passing game. Is not a great route runner. Tends to get tripped up. Struggles to get around the edge. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Provides a strong physical

presence in the running game. Will carry the ball 25 to 30 times per game, taking pressure off the quarterback. **GRADE: 7.7**

T17. Antowain Smith, Patriots

6-2 230 Age: 30 6th year

Strengths: Runs hard between the tackles and is not afraid to attack defenders and run over the pile. Can bounce to the outside and has deceptive speed when he hits a crease. Has big-play ability. Can eat time off the clock. Gets stronger as the game goes on.

Weaknesses: Does not contribute much in the passing game or as a blocker. Needs to improve ability to pick up the blitz. Does not show much of an aptitude for making tacklers miss in open field. Lacks great vision as a runner.

Bottom line: Did not take a huge beating in first six seasons in league, so could be very productive over the next three or four years for Patriots. **GRADE: 7.7**

T20. James Stewart, Lions

6-1 226 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Keeps his shoulder pads at a good level when running. Delivers a blow and gains yards after contact. Has size and adequate straight-line speed. Shows vision and patience. Can exploit cutback lanes. Adequate blocker with strength at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal ability to change direction and make defenders miss. Does not show a second gear in the open field. Runs marginal routes. Missed some time last season because of injuries.

Bottom line: Is a powerful runner when healthy but has some durability concerns. Ineffectiveness as a receiver makes him a poor fit for this offense. **GRADE: 7.6**

T20. Anthony Thomas, Bears

6-2 227 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is a strong, physical runner with good size. Runs low to the ground and uses legs and arms to break tackles. Has good vision, fights for extra yards and delivers a blow on contact.

Weaknesses: Cannot cut back or make tacklers miss in the open field. Doesn't have great speed, struggles to turn the corner and is not a great outside runner. Has had problems staying healthy. An adequate receiver.

Bottom line: Has the ability to carry the load and wear down opponents with powerful running style. **GRADE: 7.6**

T22. Travis Henry, Bills

5-9 220 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Displays good power, rarely goes down on the first hit and knows how to lower his shoulder and pick up yards after contact. Shows good burst through the hole.

Weaknesses: Has adequate hands and is much better when facing the quarterback than catching the ball on the run.

Bottom line: Starter who should get better with experience. Needs around 25 carries per game to wear down defenses, but must improve route running and hands before he can play a bigger role on passing downs. **GRADE: 7.5**

T22. Michael Pittman, Buccaneers 6-0 216 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Excellent power and speed. Shows good initial quickness through the hole. Can break tackles. Has good vision. Is not afraid to step forward and block in pass protection. Picks up the blitz. Has good body control.

Weaknesses: Does not contribute enough as a pass receiver. Needs to stay healthy. Lacks patience as a runner waiting for blocks to develop. Too often tries to create on own.

Bottom line: Signed as a free agent specifically to fill the role of starting running back and should carry the majority of the rushing load. **GRADE: 7.5**

T24. Michael Bennett, Vikings 5-9 211 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has great straight-line speed and shows a rare second gear in the open field. Has impressive change of direction skills and can hit backside holes. Shows the instincts to bounce the run outside if the initial hole is clogged.

Weaknesses: Is average in the passing game and will have trouble reading the defense on the move. Catches with body. Marginal blocker and has limited short area power. Not a powerful runner. Can't pick up yards after contact.

Bottom line: Second-year starter who has speed and potential. Must be more physical and develop skills as a receiver out of the backfield. **GRADE: 7.3**

T24. Warrick Dunn, Falcons 5-9 180 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: A versatile player with excellent athletic ability. Has outstanding speed and quickness. Shows excellent ability to make tacklers miss in open field. Shows good overall toughness. Is excellent in the passing game as a receiver out of the backfield.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size to carry a full running load. Does not break a lot of tackles. Struggles to be an effective blocker. Is not able to deliver power yards.

Bottom line: Should become key component right away. Will be the primary starter and carry 10-15 times and catch 5-10 passes per game until T.J. Duckett is ready. **GRADE: 7.3**

T26. Deuce McAllister, Saints 6-1 222 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has the size and power to run between the tackles. Has a tremendous second gear in the open field. Has wide receiver skills. Game-breaker after the catch. Has the strength to be a better blocker.

Weaknesses: Lacks some creativity as a runner. Durability a concern. Must run with better leverage and be more patient.

Bottom line: Has the potential to develop into an every-down back. Gives the Saints more speed and big-play potential than Ricky Williams did. **GRADE: 7.2**

T26. Dominic Rhodes, Colts 5-9 208 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Can make defenders miss in the open field. Has power and the ability to

pick up tough yards after contact. Is an excellent receiver out of the backfield. Rarely drops a ball.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve ability to recognize the blitz. Lacks good size. Needs to do a better job of getting upfield quickly.

Bottom line: Will make his biggest contribution on special teams but is capable of contributing 10-15 snaps a game to help keep Edgerrin James fresh. **GRADE: 7.2**

T26. Emmitt Smith, Cowboys 5-9 216 Age: 33 13th year

Strengths: Has outstanding vision and patience. Is a great route runner out of the backfield and has soft hands. Consistently recognizes and picks up blitzes. Knows how to use his blockers and find running lanes.

Weaknesses: Is aging and losing natural skills. No longer has ideal elusiveness, a second gear in the open field or the explosiveness through the hole he once had. Takes too many hits and durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Is still a productive, straight-line runner but is no longer able to create on his own. **GRADE: 7.2**

29. Terrell Davis, Broncos 5-11 210 Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Has the size to pound the ball

between the tackles. Does a good job of finding cutback lanes. Has enough elusiveness to make the first tackler miss. Is a good route runner out of the backfield.

Weaknesses: Has had a lot of problems staying healthy in recent years. Cannot outrun defenders in the open field. Is not a big-play threat as a runner or after the catch. Is not a reliable receiver.

Bottom line: Very productive when healthy and still the Broncos' best running back. **GRADE: 7.1**

T30. Jamal Anderson, free agent 5-11 237 Age: 29 9th year

Strengths: Possesses excellent size and runs with power and balance. Does a nice job of picking up yards after contact. Shows reliable hands as a receiver and gets upfield quickly after the catch.

Weaknesses: Has suffered two major knee injuries in last three seasons. Appears hesitant at times and needs to do a better job of exploding through the hole. Lacks elusiveness and does not show the ability to make defenders miss in the open field.

Bottom line: Veteran power back who must regain his confidence after two major knee injuries and be more decisive before playing a significant role. **GRADE: 7.0**



3 Curtis Martin

BERNIE NUNEZ FOR TSN

T30. Dorsey Levens, Eagles

6-1 230 Age: 32 8th year

Strengths: Possesses an excellent combination of size and speed. Runs with good power and shows the ability to lower his shoulder and deliver a blow upon contact. An effective receiver out of the backfield who displays reliable hands and the ability to adjust to a poorly thrown ball.

Weaknesses: Aging veteran who will be learning a new scheme. Durability is a concern. Does not have ideal change-of-direction skills and isn't elusive in the open field. Not a big-play threat.

Bottom line: Veteran back who will pick up yards after contact and make the tough catch in traffic. Lacks big-play capability. **GRADE: 7.0**

T30. Stacey Mack, Jaguars

6-1 237 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has excellent size. Does a great job getting yards after contact. Has excellent lower-body explosiveness and strong legs. Never quits on a play.

Weaknesses: Lacks great speed and quickness. Does not make tacklers miss in open field. Runs only north-south. Does not make big plays.

Bottom line: Player who has value because of his ability to move the chains. **GRADE: 7.0**

T30. Duce Staley, Eagles

5-11 220 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Changes directions well, is patient and will find cutback lanes before reaching the line of scrimmage. Has good vision. Has very good hands, catches the ball away from his body and knows how to get open quickly. An adequate blocker who shows the ability to pick up the blitz.

Weaknesses: Lacks a second gear in the open field and ideal explosiveness. Suffered a serious foot injury two years ago and no longer is capable of carrying the load.

Bottom line: Versatile, experienced and consistent back when healthy but he has a history of injuries and no longer has the explosiveness or power of a premier back. Needs another back to help carry the load. **GRADE: 7.0**

T30. Ricky Watters, free agent

6-1 211 Age: 33 11th year

Strengths: Runs extremely hard and does a great job of picking up yards after contact. Capable of wearing down defenses. Does a good—not great—job of picking up the blitz and takes pride in blocking. Has soft hands and is an adequate receiver out of the backfield.

Weaknesses: Starting to age, and durability is a concern. Lacks ideal speed and does not show the ability to outrun defenders in the open field. Needs to be more decisive.

Bottom line: Durability and age may prevent this veteran from carrying the load. But he's an experienced, powerful runner and would be an excellent reserve. **GRADE: 7.0**

T30. Tyrone Wheatley, Raiders

6-0 235 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Gets his shoulder pads level to the



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

ground and will run the ball inside. Is effective in short-yardage situations but is only adequate in passing game.

Weaknesses: Was bothered by nagging injuries last season; has questionable durability and reliability. Lacks burst in open field. Is not an attacking, consistent blocker. Does not show great hands.

Bottom line: Power back who can pound the ball between the tackles and will lower his shoulder to pick up the tough yards in short situations. **GRADE: 7.0**

T36. Kevan Barlow, 49ers

6-1 238 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has great lower-body strength and is capable of lowering his shoulder and picking up yards after contact. Has the speed to turn the corner. Plays with a good base and will pick up blitzing linebackers.

Weaknesses: Lacks patience. Does not have a good feel for the passing game and is inconsistent as a receiver.

Bottom line: Young backup who has a great combination of power and speed. Should continue to improve with experience. Expected to play a bigger role this year. **GRADE: 6.9**

T36. Shawn Bryson, Bills

6-1 228 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Vision and ability to avoid tacklers seemed to improve last season as he showed more patience and hit more cutback lanes. Has excellent size and good speed. Is one of the more difficult backs in the league to tackle once he gets going.

Weaknesses: Still doesn't show ideal elusiveness despite improvement; tries to run over

tacklers too often.

Bottom line: One of the top backups in the league but must continue to improve running skills in the open field. **GRADE: 6.9**

T36. Olandis Gary, Broncos

5-11 218 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has good size and is an excellent short-yardage runner. Will break most arm tackles in the open field. Shows the ability to adjust to the ball in the air. Is a reliable receiver out of the backfield.

Weaknesses: Injuries have taken their toll on his running skills. Does not have great speed; will not outrun many defenders.

Bottom line: Still capable of being an effective starter in the Denver system but must stay healthy. **GRADE: 6.9**

T36. Skip Hicks, Titans

6-0 203 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has good overall athletic ability. Has the ability to change direction and is elusive. Shows the ability to lower his shoulder and pick up tough yards after contact.

Weaknesses: Does not break arm tackles well and rarely fights for extra yards. Needs to improve blocking and the ability to recognize or pick up the blitzing linebacker. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Will remain on the bench as one of the better backup running backs in the league. **GRADE: 6.9**

T36. James Jackson, Browns

5-10 209 Age: 26 2nd year

Strengths: Runs with power. Has a good combination of size and speed. Is a good cutback runner with excellent vision and quickness. Will gain yardage after the first hit. Is a good fit for the Browns' run-heavy offense.

Weaknesses: Needs to add some bulk. Tends to wear down late in games. Does not contribute in the passing game. Needs to improve as a blocker.

Bottom line: Has a lot of talent but seems destined to play second fiddle to rookie William Green this season. **GRADE: 6.9**

T36. Travis Minor, Dolphins

5-10 201 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good speed and shows outstanding balance and hands as a receiver. Is elusive in the open field. Has tremendous vision and instincts. Does a nice job pumping legs and picking up yards after the catch.

Weaknesses: Is tougher than most backs his size but never has been an every-down player. Still young and has little experience.

Bottom line: Emerging third-down back provides the Dolphins with a big-play receiving option out of backfield on obvious passing downs. **GRADE: 6.9**

T36. Lamar Smith, Panthers

5-11 224 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Has deceptive power and quickness as an inside runner. Hits the hole with good decisiveness. Has good experience.

Weaknesses: Starting to slow down because of the wear and tear on his body. Takes a lot

of physical hits. Unable to put second and third moves together. Is not a deep threat.
Bottom line: If he plays behind an outstanding offensive line he can be effective. But he's over 30, has taken a lot of hits and has minimal long-term value. **GRADE: 6.9**

T36. Amos Zereoue, Steelers

5-8 207 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Slasher with great quickness, explosiveness and big play capabilities. Changes directions well. Dangerous because he can run away from defenses.

Weaknesses: Lacks great height and overall bulk. Unable to carry ball too many times inside tackles because of size. Overpowered as blocker at point of attack and on blitz pickup.

Bottom line: Look for Steelers to utilize his speed and explosiveness to rest Jerome Bettis and give the offense more chances for big plays. **GRADE: 6.9**

T44. Trung Canidate, Rams

5-11 205 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Shows good burst through the hole and has very good elusiveness in the open field. Has tremendous speed, shows a second gear in the open field and is a big-play threat after the catch.

Weaknesses: Lacks power as a runner. Does not have great bulk and is a below-average blocker in the passing game. His hands are inconsistent.

Bottom line: Explosive backup with limited potential because he lacks the size and durability of an every-down back. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Ron Dayne, Giants

5-10 253 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent size and power. Plays with good balance. Shows the ability to make cuts before the line of scrimmage.

Weaknesses: Shows marginal athletic ability and initial quickness. Does not run with good leverage and lacks ideal acceleration through the hole. Seldom used as a receiver out of the backfield and has trouble picking up the blitzing linebacker.

Bottom line: Powerful interior runner who does his best work between the tackles. Lacks the speed to be a factor in the perimeter running game and the blocking/receiving skills to be a factor in the passing game. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Troy Hambrick, Cowboys

6-1 255 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size and runs with power. Shows good vision and adequate patience. Bursts through the hole and wastes no motion getting upfield. Has soft hands and can catch the ball away from his body.

Weaknesses: Lacks the ability to change directions quickly and make tacklers miss. Is not a polished route runner or a big-play threat after the catch. Doesn't have ideal speed.

Bottom line: Is an upright runner who knows how to lower his shoulder and get the tough yards. Will back up Emmitt Smith. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Moe Williams, Vikings

6-1 210 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has exceptionally strong base and runs with great intensity. Will lower the shoulder and deliver blow upon contact. Has good vision. Gets everything out of each carry.

Weaknesses: Lacks pure speed and quickness. Shows inconsistent hands and not much of a receiver out of the backfield. Lacks ideal lateral movement picking up the blitz.

Bottom line: No. 3 back who excels pounding the ball between the tackles. Provides Vikings much-needed versatility in the backfield. **GRADE: 6.8**

T48. Brandon Bennett, Bengals

5-11 220 Age: 29 4th year

Strengths: Runs with a low center of gravity. Good balance. Shows ability to pick up yards after contact.

Weaknesses: Lacks change of direction skills. Will have trouble making tacklers miss in space. Just an average blocker in the passing game. Does not run polished routes. Has had fumble problems.

Bottom line: Lacks big-play capability but is capable of pounding the ball between the tackles. **GRADE: 6.7**

T48. Doug Chapman, Vikings

5-10 213 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Well-rounded player with adequate speed. Is a good pass blocker who shows the ability to recognize and pick up the blitz. An effective receiver out of the backfield. Appears to be improving.

Weaknesses: Has limited overall experience. Is a bit undersized and doesn't play with a natural base. Lacks the strength to break tackles in the open field.

Bottom line: Developmental back who continues to improve but still needs to improve instincts and is undersized. **GRADE: 6.7**

T48. Chris Fuamatu-Ma'afala, Steelers

6-0 255 Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Big, powerful running back is strong between the tackles. A load to tackle. Will attack defender and fall forward for yardage.

Weaknesses: Ineffective blocking in space. Lacks explosiveness for big running plays. Straight line runner susceptible to injuries.

Bottom line: An outstanding physical backup running back. Can give Pittsburgh great inside running production when spelling Jerome Bettis. **GRADE: 6.7**

T48. J.R. Redmond, Patriots

5-11 215 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has decent size and good vision. Shows ability to catch passes out of the backfield, catch the ball in stride and make yards after the reception. Does not make a lot of mistakes.

Weaknesses: Does not have the change of direction skills to make defenders miss in the open field. Lacks big-play ability. Doesn't have great speed. Injuries are a concern.

Bottom line: A good fit as a backup running back in New England. **GRADE: 6.7**

T52. Leon Johnson, Bears

6-0 216 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Is a tough and fluid runner. Shows good vision and instincts. Does a nice job cutting back and finding lanes.

Weaknesses: Isn't very big. Does not have the speed or skills in the passing game of an every-down back. Is average blocker; lacks base, pop and power at the point of attack.

Bottom line: Reserve who will make biggest contribution as a return specialist. Capable of playing 10 to 15 snaps on offense. **GRADE: 6.5**

T52. Elvis Joseph, Jaguars

6-1 213 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Runs hard and is aggressive. Is best when in space. Has good overall vision and a feel for knowing where holes are going to open.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size or power and is not a great pass blocker. Struggles at times to pick up the blitz. Does not have big-play ability.

Bottom line: A quality backup. **GRADE: 6.5**

T52. Maurice Smith, Falcons

6-0 235 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has good strength. Picks up yards after contact. Gets up the field instantly and has some cutback ability.

Weaknesses: Lacks speed and elusiveness. Has trouble stopping and starting. Is a poor route runner. Has trouble catching on the run and over his shoulder. Lacks the speed to be a threat after the catch.

Bottom line: Is no better than a No. 2 back but is good insurance. His lack of size and history of durability problems will forever limit his potential. **GRADE: 6.5**

T52. Jamel White, Browns

5-9 208 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Can make tacklers miss in space. Shows good fundamentals. Has ability to cut back and find holes. Plays with good leverage.

Weaknesses: Is not a good blocker. Gets arm-tackled too often. Needs to improve vision as a runner. Needs to be more consistent and stay on his feet better.

Bottom line: Has the natural tools and pass-catching ability to be an effective every down back, but opportunities may be limited in Cleveland. **GRADE: 6.5**

T56. Jason Brookens, Packers

6-0 235 Age: 26 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent size and shows good strength. Is at his best when pounding the ball between the tackles and is an excellent short-yardage runner. Shows good initial pop as a blocker.

Weaknesses: Needs to stay in shape; appears sluggish when overweight. Lacks ideal speed and will not outrun defenders. Lacks elusiveness and will not make defenders miss in the open field.

Bottom line: Reserve back who is versatile enough to play fullback in an emergency.

Likely would struggle if forced into the starting lineup for an extended period of time.

GRADE: 6.4

T56. Terrell Fletcher, Chargers

5-8 196

Age: 28 8th year

Strengths: Is an effective receiver out of the backfield. Runs good routes, will catch the tough ball and can turn upfield and run. Has good quickness and adequate speed.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and aging. Is a liability as a blocker. Lacks the size and power to run inside. Doesn't make many big plays.

Bottom line: Was relegated to a third-down receiving role after LaDainian Tomlinson's arrival a year ago and his workload isn't likely to increase this season.

GRADE: 6.4

T56. Robert Holcombe, Titans

5-10 220

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is at his best pounding the ball between the tackles. An excellent short yardage and goal line runner. Can catch the ball away from his body and will catch most balls.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size and blocking skills of a fullback and lacks breakaway speed of a running back. Is not a big-play threat. Is not an effective route runner.

Bottom line: An excellent No. 3 back and an adequate backup but probably will make his biggest contribution on special teams.

GRADE: 6.4

T56. LaMont Jordan, Jets

5-10 230

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Plays with outstanding leverage. Shows ability to change direction quickly. Breaks a lot of tackles with his leg strength and is an effective receiver out of the backfield.

Weaknesses: Does not have great vision. Has difficulty locating the cutback lanes. Must improve his running instincts. Does not show a second gear in the open field.

Bottom line: An excellent reserve who should play a bigger role spelling Curtis Martin this season.

GRADE: 6.4

T56. Curtis Keaton, Bengals

5-10 219

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Runs with excellent balance. Good speed. Explodes through the hole. Shows the ability to catch the ball away from the body.

Weaknesses: Is not a physical runner. Lacks the ability to lower the shoulder and pick up tough yards after contact. Is inconsistent as a receiver.

Bottom line: Reserve with good but not great speed. Needs to catch the ball more consistently.

GRADE: 6.4

T56. Marcel Shipp, Cardinals

5-11 219

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Changes direction well and has the ability to get the extra yard. Runs low to the ground and rarely goes down after the first hit. Has good instincts and vision.

Weaknesses: Lacks speed and a second gear in the open field. Not a big receiving threat.

Bottom line: Added strength in the offseason and showed up in tremendous shape at



9 Eddie George

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

minicamp. Lacks experience, speed and receiving skills.

GRADE: 6.4

T62. Kevin Faulk, Patriots

5-8 202

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Shows soft hands as a receiver out of the backfield. Has excellent burst, good vision and overall speed. Runs with good balance and shows the ability to make the first defender miss.

Weaknesses: Extremely undersized and durability is a concern. Lacks the power and toughness to pick up yards after contact. Has problems holding on to the ball.

Bottom line: Explosive reserve who struggles when asked to carry the load but is very effective in a situational role.

GRADE: 6.3

T62. Jay Graham, Seahawks

6-0 224

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is a squatty runner with a good center of gravity. Does a nice job of driving his legs and picking up yards after contact. Shows good balance and lower-body strength as a blocker.

Weaknesses: Never has been able to stay healthy. Doesn't show great vision and can be impatient. Doesn't offer upside as a receiver.

Bottom line: Career backup who just doesn't offer enough in terms of consistency as a runner or potency as a receiver.

GRADE: 6.3

T62. Sammy Morris, Bills

6-0 225

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is a powerful runner, gifted receiver and efficient blocker. Lowers his shoulder and delivers blows as a runner.

Weaknesses: Is not elusive, lacks a second gear in the open field and cannot outrun many defenders.

Bottom line: Reserve power back who is versatile but not big enough to move to fullback

full-time. Isn't explosive enough as a runner to be anything more than a No. 3 at this point.

GRADE: 6.3

T65. Rabih Abdullah, Bears

6-0 227

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Versatile enough to play fullback or running back. Has good straight-line speed and adequate overall ability. Shows reliable hands and runs crisp routes.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have the size or strength to open holes in the running game. Lacks the ability to change directions quickly as a runner and struggles to hit moving targets as a blocker. Does not explode through the hole.

Bottom line: Reserve whose biggest contributions will be on special teams.

GRADE: 6.2

T65. Mike Cloud, Chiefs

5-10 205

Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has excellent overall quickness. Has good speed and runs hard. Breaks some arm tackles because of effort and picks up some yards after contact. Good balance.

Weaknesses: Has yet to live up to expectations. Does not make enough big plays. Not real decisive and lacks vision. Spends too much time dancing along the line of scrimmage. Has produced little as a receiver.

Bottom line: Backup who makes his biggest contribution in the return game.

GRADE: 6.2

T65. Randy Jordan, Raiders

5-11 215

Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Plays hard and has good running skills. Is an adequate option as a receiver. Productive on special teams.

Weaknesses: Lacks production. Not efficient in blitz pickup. Runs poor pass routes and is not elusive in space.

Bottom line: Reserve team player who knows his role. Most of his production will come on special teams.

GRADE: 6.2

T65. Paul Smith, 49ers

5-11 234

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has improved patience and vision as a runner. Does a good job of getting upfield quickly. Keeps good center of gravity and shows good pop at the point of attack. Has adequate hands as a receiver.

Weaknesses: Blocking skills are marginal and struggles to block moving targets. Lacks the bulk of a lead blocker and the speed of a running back.

Bottom line: Developmental reserve at fullback and running back who will continue to make biggest contributions on special teams.

GRADE: 6.2

T69. Dan Alexander, Titans

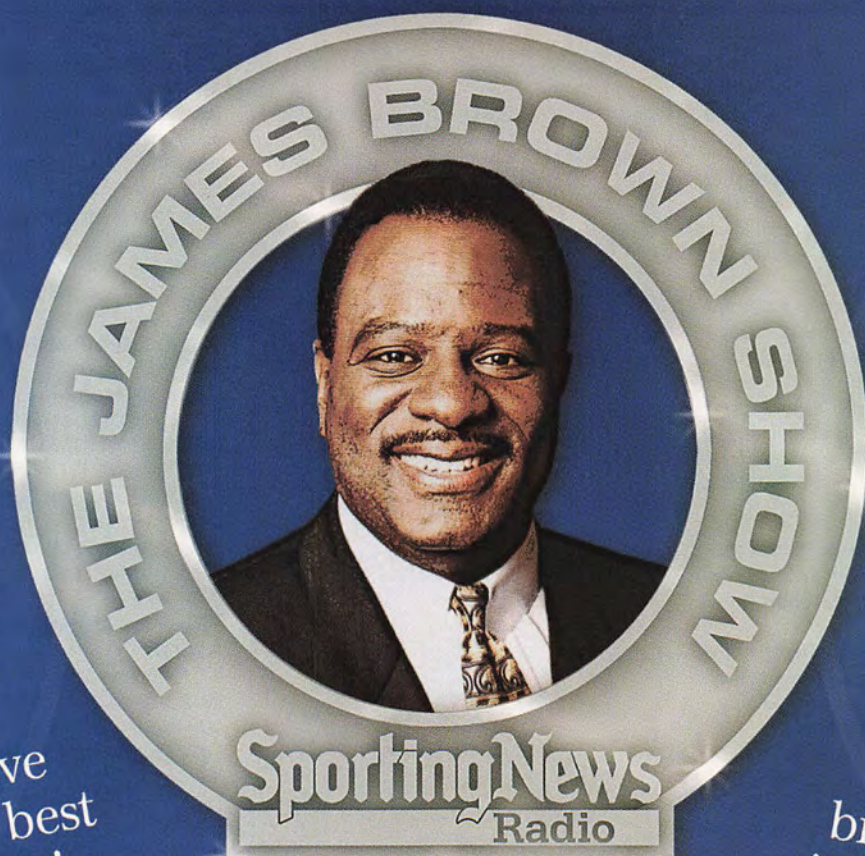
6-0 252

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Excels in short yardage situations. Shows great burst and acceleration to the line of scrimmage. Is capable of making the first defender miss.

Weaknesses: Does not have good vision and does not always recognize the cutback lanes. Has limited experience as a receiver out of the backfield and does not show the ability

Winner
of two
consecutive
Emmys as best
studio host!



Hear all the
interviews
with the
biggest names
in sports today!

Tune in Weekdays

10a.m.—12p.m. ET // 7a.m.—9a.m. PT

Listen on the Sporting News Radio affiliate nearest you
or listen online at www.sportingnews.com. Check your local listings.

SportingNews
Radio

New York—WSNR 620 Chicago—WCSN 820 Los Angeles—KMPC 1540 Boston—WWZN 1510

to get open.

Bottom line: Will make his biggest contribution on special teams. **GRADE: 6.1**

T69. Mike Green, Titans

6-0 249 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Productive runner between the tackles. Runs with good power and will break most arm tackles. Is versatile enough to play both fullback and running back.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal speed as a running back and strength as a blocker. Is not very physical or aggressive. Needs to do a better job of holding on to the ball.

Bottom line: Had strong 2001 NFL Europe and NFL seasons but lacks ideal blocking skills and does not show the same power without the ball. **GRADE: 6.1**

T69. Aaron Stecker, Buccaneers

5-10 205 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Tough runner. Not afraid to run inside. Changes directions well. Shows quick burst toward openings.

Weaknesses: Lacks acceleration in open field and size to run inside. Takes too many shots to body. Hands are inconsistent in passing game. A liability as a pass blocker.

Bottom line: Has experience and running skills to serve as No. 3 back, but nothing higher. Contributes on special teams and may be good for returning kicks. **GRADE: 6.1**

T72. Derrick Blaylock, Chiefs

5-9 200 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Outstanding speed. Hits the hole with excellent quickness, if a crease is there, he produces a big play. Mostly reliable hands as a receiver.

Weaknesses: Only marginal elusiveness in the open field. No feel for blocking schemes. Lacks vision and good running instincts. Breaks few tackles. Doesn't run with power.

Bottom line: Speed has yet to translate into production on the field. Has potential as a third-down back and makes an impact in the return game. **GRADE: 6.0**

T72. Travis Jervey, Falcons

6-0 222 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has outstanding speed and can be effective catching the ball out of the backfield. Is solid on special teams. Has some ability as a kickoff returner.

Weaknesses: Durability is a huge question mark. Does not have a lot of moves, change-of-direction skills and natural overall running skills. Won't break a lot of tackles.

Bottom line: Seems to be too much of a gamble from an injury standpoint to risk even bringing him in as a role player. Has had a lot of opportunities but never has fulfilled expectations. **GRADE: 6.0**

T72. Chad Morton, Jets

5-8 186 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Productive receiver out of the backfield. Shows soft hands and the ability to catch the ball away from his body. Can make defenders miss in the open field and has great change of direction skills.

Weaknesses: Does not outrun defenders in



the open field. Lacks bulk and has been hampered by numerous minor injuries. Does not show ability to pick up yards after contact.

Bottom line: A situational third-down back and special teams contributor who provides quality backfield depth. **GRADE: 6.0**

T72. Lamont Warren, Lions

5-11 202 Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Runs hard, attacks the line of scrimmage and shows some power. Has adequate hands and can contribute in the short passing game.

Weaknesses: Doesn't burst through the hole. Has poor blocking skills and lacks ideal strength and size. Doesn't accelerate in the open field, is aging and is losing the ability to change direction.

Bottom line: Reserve who lacks the size of an every-down back and the elusiveness of a third-down back. **GRADE: 6.0**

T76. James Allen, Texans

5-10 215 Age: 27 5th year

Shows the ability to pick up the blitz. Doesn't have enough flash or make enough big plays to warrant a starting job. **GRADE: 5.9**

T76. Terry Allen, free agent

5-10 208 Age: 34 12th year

Veteran back who shows an adequate burst, will catch the ball out of the backfield and is an efficient runner. Lacks speed and elusiveness to be an effective starter. **GRADE: 5.9**

T76. Ki-Jana Carter, Packers

5-10 222 Age: 28 6th year
Disappointing former first overall pick who has had injury problems. Plays well when given the opportunity, has excellent vision and will provide quality depth for the Packers. **GRADE: 5.9**

T76. Byron Hanspard, Buccaneers

5-10 200 Age: 26 4th year
Versatile back who once had skills as a runner, receiver and returner. But fits only as a third-down, utility-type back now. **GRADE: 5.9**

T76. Richard Huntley, Bills

5-11 225 Age: 29 5th year
Veteran power back who is best at pounding the ball between the tackles. Provides adequate depth but has trouble staying healthy. Needs to do a better job of protecting the ball. **GRADE: 5.9**

T76. Rudi Johnson, Bengals

5-10 233 Age: 22 2nd year
Lacks versatility, breakaway speed and burst. Flashes excellent potential and shows great vision for a power back. **GRADE: 5.9**

T76. Frank Moreau, free agent

6-2 230 Age: 26 3rd year
Is a fairly dependable player who will produce on inside running plays, but lack of speed hurts on the perimeter and in the passing game. **GRADE: 5.9**

T76. Shyrone Stith, Colts

5-8 208 Age: 24 3rd year
Does not have ideal speed. Must show improved receiving skills and add strength. Would struggle if forced into lineup for extended period. **GRADE: 5.9**

T76. Damon Washington, Giants

5-11 193 Age: 25 3rd year
More quick than fast. Has good vision. Has some game experience. Better than average on special teams. Lacks ideal speed. **GRADE: 5.9**

T85. KaRon Coleman, Broncos

5-7 198 Age: 24 3rd year
His lack of size and the team's depth at running back limits his chances. Works hard but simply lacks the size and speed to be consistently productive. **GRADE: 5.8**

T85. Michael Wiley, Cowboys

5-11 203 Age: 24 3rd year
Is an undersized but versatile and durable change-of-pace back. Has good speed and overall receiving skills but lacks consistency. **GRADE: 5.8**

T87. Reuben Droughns, Broncos

5-11 207 Age: 24 3rd year
Adequate backup who would struggle if forced to start over an extended period. Did little for a running back-starved Lions team. Has limited potential. **GRADE: 5.7**

T87. Nick Goings, Panthers

6-0 225 Age: 24 1st year
Will never be more than a backup, short-yardage back. Does not have potential as a receiver and fumbling is a concern. **GRADE: 5.7**

T87. Rondell Mealey, Packers

6-0 224 Age: 25 3rd year
A power back who breaks some tackles and shows good speed in open field. Has serious durability concerns. **GRADE: 5.7**

T87. Joe Montgomery, Panthers

5-10 230 Age: 26 4th year
Does not offer enough production because of lack of speed and agility. Won't be more than a backup, short-yardage ballcarrier. **GRADE: 5.7**

91. Derek Homer, Ravens

5-10 198 Age: 24 1st year
Has good quickness and a good understanding of the passing game. A steady producer. Lack of speed and explosiveness makes him an average third-down back. **GRADE: 5.5**

T92. Fred McAfee, Saints

5-10 193 Age: 34 11th year
Rarely touches the ball on offense and had six kick-off returns in 2001. Plays primarily on kick coverage. Is experienced and doesn't make a lot of mistakes. **GRADE: 5.4**

T92. Travis Prentice, Texans

5-11 221 Age: 25 3rd year
Will be used on third down as a change-of-pace speed guy, but his lack of pass catching skills may not fit. **GRADE: 5.4**

94. Robert Edwards, Dolphins

5-11 220 Age: 27 4th year
Has not played in an NFL game since 1998 after suffering a severe leg injury. Can contribute if Ricky Williams were to be out for a short period. **GRADE: 4.9**

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. William Green, Browns

6-0 221 Boston College, 1st round
Strengths: Has good lower-body strength. Will lower his shoulder and deliver a blow. Shows good change of direction skills. Can find the cutback lanes. Has the speed to turn the corner and shows a second gear in the open field. Shows ability to catch ball out of the backfield. Contributes as a blocker in the passing game. Was very durable in college. **Weaknesses:** Does not have much open-field elusiveness or great size. Needs to improve blitz recognition. **Bottom line:** Expected to contribute right away as the Browns' No. 1 back, and there's no reason he shouldn't. **GRADE: 9.4**

2. T.J. Duckett, Falcons

6-0 254 Michigan State, 1st round
Strengths: Is a physical, powerful and punishing inside runner. Has good burst and can explode through the hole. Has good vision and flashes patience. Is a huge threat in the open field because of his size, power and shiftness. Does a nice job on play-action. **Weaknesses:** Durability is a big concern for a back of his size and style. Is too hesitant when picking up the blitz. Struggles to make decisions. Needs to work on receiving skills. Tends to take a lot of shots to the body. **Bottom line:** If he stays healthy, he could be a premier runner in the NFL. Will provide a change of pace to the speedy Warrick Dunn and will take the lead role in short-yardage situations. **GRADE: 9.1**

3. Clinton Portis, Broncos

5-11 204 Miami (Fla.), 2nd round
Strengths: Has good lower body strength and leg drive. Has the vision to recognize cutback lanes. Has excellent instincts as a runner. Can

make defenders miss in the open field. Will pick up yards after contact. **Weaknesses:** Needs to improve receiving skills; hands are inconsistent. Lacks good size. Runs too high at times and takes too many big hits. **Bottom line:** Unlikely to make a huge impact this year in a crowded Denver backfield, but should provide solid depth. **GRADE: 9.0**

4. DeShaun Foster, Panthers

6-0 222 UCLA, 2nd round
Strengths: Has excellent quickness and power. Is a determined inside runner. Accelerates upfield with great burst. Looks to run over defensive backs when he reaches daylight. Has good hands. Is an aggressive blocker. **Weaknesses:** Has trouble recognizing blitzes. Durability is a concern. Must improve ability to protect the ball. Tends to wear down late in the season. **Bottom line:** Gives the team depth at a position where injuries have been a problem. Won't be a backup for long. **GRADE: 8.8**

5. Lamar Gordon, Rams

6-1 204 North Dakota State, 3rd round
Strengths: Attacks the line of scrimmage and shows good burst. Does a good job of keeping his legs going and has good vision. Has the speed to turn the corner. **Weaknesses:** Doesn't always block with leverage and shows marginal pop at the point of attack. Played at a small school and has to make major transition to the NFL's level of competition. **Bottom line:** Developmental back who needs to improve as a receiver and blocker but brings some depth to the backfield. Eventually should push for the backup role. **GRADE: 8.0**

6. Jonathan Wells, Texans

6-1 243 Ohio State, 4th round
Has trouble picking up the blitz in pass protection. Has size, athleticism, quickness and the desire to improve. Could be a sleeper. **GRADE: 7.7**

7. Adrian Peterson, Bears

5-10 214 Georgia Southern, 6th round
Powerful, squatty runner who keeps his legs pumping and breaks most arm tackles. Lacks top speed and gets caught from behind. Does not have much experience as a receiver. Has the ability to develop into an effective backup. **GRADE: 7.4**

8. Ladell Betts, Redskins

5-10 220 Iowa, 2nd round
Has excellent vision and balance as a runner. Is patient and does a great job setting up blocks. Is a good receiver who can line up in the slot. Continues to improve as a blocker. Power back who eventually could replace Stephen Davis. **GRADE: 7.3**

9. Maurice Morris, Seahawks

5-11 208 Oregon, 2nd round
Has above-average pass-catching ability. Gets in good position as a blocker. Has a good blend of speed and quickness and has the overall running skills to be a productive starter a few years down

the road. **GRADE: 7.0**

10. Brian Westbrook, Eagles

5-8 200 Villanova, 3rd round
Is versatile and has impressive combination of speed and power. Outstanding receiver who could make an immediate impact as a third-down back. Lacks durability. **GRADE: 6.7**

11. Luke Staley, Lions

6-1 227 BYU, 7th round
Has size and speed. Broke his fibula during senior season. That he played in a similar scheme in college will help. **GRADE: 6.3**

12. Travis Stephens, Buccaneers

5-8 194 Tennessee, 4th round
Has a good quickness, burst and toughness. Does not project as an every-down back. Has limited experience as a receiver. **GRADE: 6.1**

13. Ennis Haywood, Cowboys

5-10 220 Iowa State, undrafted free agent
Has the frame, power and quickness to be an effective between-the-tackles runner, but is not an effective receiver. **GRADE: 5.5**

14. Chester Taylor, Ravens

5-11 213 Toledo, 6th round
Tough, consistent and productive player. Does not contribute blocking or receiving, which limits every-down ability. **GRADE: 5.2**

15. Damien Anderson, Cardinals

5-11 204 Northwestern, undrafted free agent
Not a great receiver or blocker but has great vision as a runner. Almost never fumbles. **GRADE: 5.0**

T16. Leonard Henry, Dolphins

6-1 206 East Carolina, 7th round
Seventh-round pick who must show improved ability to catch the ball. A backup. **GRADE: 4.0**

T16. Larry Ned, Raiders

5-11 215 San Diego State, 6th round
Has speed and big-play potential. Is a good athlete who has excellent running skills in space. **GRADE: 4.0**

T16. Antwoine Womack, Patriots

5-11 214 Virginia, 7th round
A developmental player who has some upside. Has good size and nice speed and a solid running style. **GRADE: 4.0**

19. Josh Scobey, Cardinals

5-11 218 Kansas State, 6th round
Must work on blocking and receiving skills but could get a handful of carries per game. **GRADE: 3.4**

20. Woodrow Dantzler, Cowboys

5-11 211 Clemson, undrafted free agent
A former college quarterback, he is tough and elusive but has little experience as a running back. **GRADE: 3.2**

T21. Brian Allen, Colts

5-9 205 Stanford, 6th round
Lacks great size but has a nice combination of strength, speed, burst and vision. **GRADE: 3.0**

T21. Tony Fisher, Packers

6-1 222 Notre Dame, undrafted free agent
Has good size and deceptive quickness but lacks big-play speed and has a history of injuries. **GRADE: 3.0**

T21. Robert Gillespie, Redskins

5-9 190 Florida, undrafted free agent
Is undersized but has the elusiveness, reliable hands and quickness to develop into a return man or third-down specialist. **GRADE: 3.0**

1. Fred Beasley, 49ers

6-0 246

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has ideal size and build. Plays with good pad level and balance. Shows good pop at the point of attack and rarely overextends. Has very good lower-body strength and shows the ability to drive through and sustain blocks. Capable of consistently blocking moving targets beyond the line of scrimmage and has good lateral quickness. Has soft hands as a receiver and better-than-average speed. Picks up yards after contact.

Weaknesses: Does not have much acceleration or burst in the open field. Not elusive or a big-play threat after the catch.

Bottom line: Versatile player who is an outstanding lead blocker, an effective receiver out of the backfield and a powerful short-yardage runner. **GRADE: 8.2**

GRADE: 8.2

2. William Henderson, Packers

6-1 253

Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Has an outstanding combination of size and strength. Shows good pop at point of attack and works to sustain blocks. Has soft hands and a decent feel for running routes in short areas. Will lower his shoulder, run over defenders in open field and pick up yards after contact.

Weaknesses: Lacks elusiveness and has just decent speed. Appears to have lost some quickness and lateral movement.

Bottom line: A punishing lead blocker who is aging and played a reduced role last year. Still can dominate at the point of attack and is an outstanding special teams contributor.

GRADE: 7.6

T3. Mike Alstott, Buccaneers

6-1 248

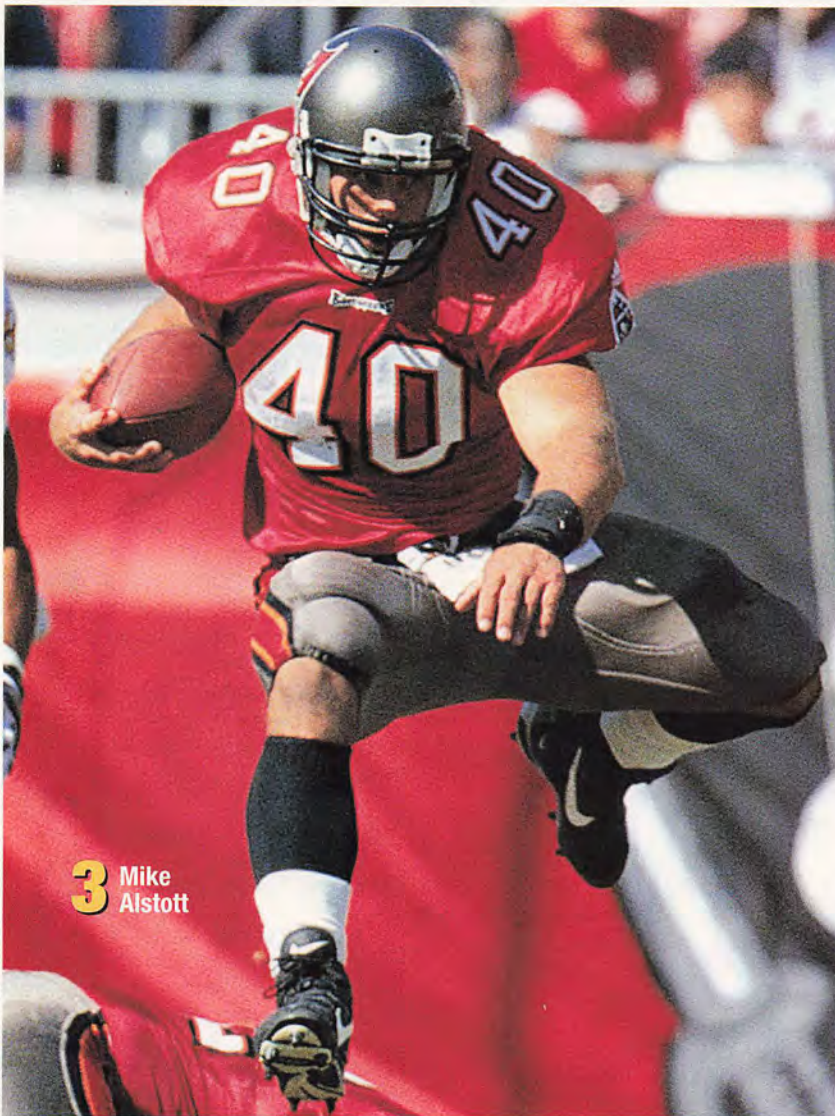
Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has great pop at the point of attack. Has excellent lower body strength. Picks up a lot of yards after contact. Works hard and is always in shape. Good receiving skills, soft hands, can catch on the run and is tough to bring down in the open field.

Weaknesses: Lacks great speed plus blocking skills of a true fullback. Doesn't make defenders miss. Does not take good angles. Struggles picking up the blitz.

Bottom line: One of the more powerful runners in the NFL but lacks speed and elusiveness. Fumbles too much. Will be used more as a short-yardage rusher and receiver. **GRADE: 7.5**

GRADE: 7.5



3 Mike Alstott

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

	Ht.	Wt.	40
NFL optimum	6-0	240	4.60
NFL minimum	5-10	225	4.85

Ideally, teams want a fullback who can contribute as a lead blocker, a receiver and a runner. But versatile fullbacks, such as the 49ers' Fred Beasley, are tough to find. So teams settle for a dominant lead blocker or a smaller fullback. Lorenzo Neal is the former, using great size, strength and technique to open holes. Larry Centers is the latter, using his hands, quickness and route-running savvy to contribute as a receiver.

T3. Marc Edwards, Patriots

6-0 245

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is a solid lead blocker. Does a nice job of hitting the moving target. Creates enough movement to allow his running back to get through the hole. Is a good ball carrier in short-yardage situations.

Weaknesses: Doesn't make many big plays as a runner. Lacks good speed. Needs to improve on angles to blocks.

Bottom line: Has a variety of skills; might be one of the NFL's most efficient fullbacks. **GRADE: 7**

GRADE: 7.5

Real Sports For the Real Fan



BASKETBALL • BASEBALL • FOOTBALL • HOCKEY • STOCK CAR RACING

SAVE 75%!

The Sporting News

Sign me up for 30 issues of The Sporting News for just 99¢ each (75% off the newsstand price).

NAME (Please Print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY / STATE / ZIP _____

Canada add \$14.30 for subscription postage (U.S. funds only). Other international rates available on request. The Sporting News is published weekly, with special double issues.

SPECIAL NEW SUBSCRIBER OFFER

Check One:

- ☐ Payment enclosed
☐ Bill me later

MAIL TO:

The Sporting News
P.O. Box 51576
Boulder, CO 80323-1576

5Y6P7

- The Teams
- The Stats
- The Strategies
- Trades, Drafts & Deals
- Complete, In-Depth, Up-to-Date Coverage
- Thousands of facts and statistics
- Every Week

www.sportingnews.com

FOR FASTER SERVICE, CALL TOLL-FREE: 1-800-238-0452

T5. Larry Centers, Bills

6-0 225

Age: 34 13th year

Strengths: Durable and has good size.

Outstanding hands. Can catch the ball on the run, over the shoulder and away from his body. Has tremendous feel for coverages and consistently finds ways to get open against bigger, faster, more athletic linebackers.

Weaknesses: Lacks the strength and bulk of a dominant lead blocker and elusiveness as a runner.

Bottom line: One of the best pass-catching backs in NFL history who should continue to produce in that role.

GRADE: 7.4

T5. Cory Schlesinger, Lions

6-0 246

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has leverage and size. Has elite hands for a fullback, makes the catch away from the body and shows excellent concentration when the ball is in the air. Can gain tough yards after contact. Is coming off the best season of his career.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal ability to change direction and has marginal lateral movement. Struggles to block moving targets beyond the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Versatile starter who excels in this scheme and is capable of opening holes. Is a powerful short-yardage runner and a productive receiver.

GRADE: 7.4

T7. Greg Comella, Titans

6-1 248

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Shows the ability to catch the ball out of the backfield. Does a good job of getting pop at the point of attack. Does a good job of adjusting to his blocks on the move. Rarely drops a ball.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size and power. Will get overpowered by bigger and more physical linebackers. Does not have great overall running skills. Is not going to outrun defenders once he has located a seam.

Bottom line: Is capable of creating lanes for running back Eddie George on a consistent basis and can produce as a receiver.

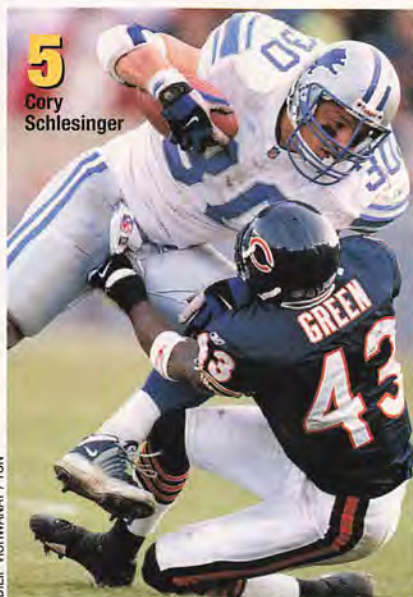
GRADE: 7.3

T7. James Hodgins, Rams

6-1 270

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is one of the better isolation blockers in the league. Has the size to handle linebackers at the point of attack. Blocks with very good leverage and balance. Shows the ability to consistently block moving



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

targets beyond the line. Has good change of direction skills.

Weaknesses: Lacks explosiveness and vision as a runner and can't turn the corner. Is stiff in the upper body and has trouble catching the ball on the run.

Bottom line: Massive blocking back with great power who rarely touches the ball as a receiver or a runner. Probably a better fit in a power-running offense.

GRADE: 7.3

T7. Lorenzo Neal, Bengals

5-11 240

Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Great power. Great lead blocker. Has excellent size and good lower and upper body strength. Plays with good leverage and good overall technique.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal athletic ability. Has average feel for the passing game. Lacks speed and is almost no threat as a runner.

Bottom line: Has been one of the best lead blockers in the league. Age and declining ability to block linebackers are concerns.

GRADE: 7.3

T10. Joel Makovicka, Cardinals

5-11 196

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Good bulk and overall strength. Is powerful at the point of attack as a blocker. Shows good initial pop and the ability to maintain blocks.

Weaknesses: Mechanical at times and has

trouble hitting the moving target once past the line of scrimmage. As a runner, doesn't show much burst upfield, patience or change of direction. Does not contribute in the passing game.

Bottom line: Massive lead blocker who shows the ability to be dominant in the running game. Has been durable, knows the system well and rarely makes a mistake.

GRADE: 7.2

T10. Tony Richardson, Chiefs

6-1 233

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Versatile. Understands blocking angles, is rarely out of position, gets a good base position and has balance. Runs hard and picks up the tough yards after contact. Is an effective receiver out of the backfield with reliable hands.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size and power of a dominating lead blocker. Not an elusive runner. Does not have the ability to make defenders miss in the open field. Shoulder injury hindered production in 2001.

Bottom line: Underrated starter who is an effective positional blocker, receiver and short-yardage runner.

GRADE: 7.2

T10. Terrelle Smith, Saints

6-0 246

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size and is an effective blocker. Has excellent initial pop. North-south runner. At his best in a confined area. **Weaknesses:** Durability a big concern. Has trouble changing direction. Doesn't offer a lot as a runner or receiver. Fails to get into ideal position past the line of scrimmage. Lacks speed and burst.

Bottom line: Does an outstanding job as an isolation blocker. Contributes occasionally as a short-yardage ballcarrier and safety valve receiver. Will be the starter as long as he stays healthy.

GRADE: 7.2

13. Cecil Martin, Eagles

6-0 235

Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Plays with good leverage, does a good job of delivering the blow and has good size. When facing the quarterback, does an excellent job of catching passes.

Weaknesses: Looks stiff at times and has trouble moving laterally. Is tight in the upper body and has trouble adjusting to passes over the shoulder or behind him. Does not have ideal change-of-direction ability as a runner and struggles trying to

ON THE RISE: Cory Schlesinger, Lions

One of the league's most improved players, Schlesinger caught more passes in 2001 (60) in the Lions' West Coast scheme than he had in his entire career (42).

ON THE DECLINE: Lorenzo Neal, Bengals

Once the league's best isolation blocker, Neal is aging and last season consistently failed to block linebackers on the move.

SLEEPER: Greg Comella, Titans

He's a productive receiver and effective lead blocker who should open holes for RB Eddie George, who struggled in 2001 without a true fullback ahead of him.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Richie Anderson, Jets

Coordinator Paul Hackett doesn't use the fullback in the passing game much, so Anderson, a productive receiver, likely won't have much of an impact this season.

BEST RUNNER: Mike Alstott, Buccaneers

His role in the Bucs' new offense is unclear, but he's more of a power back than a lead blocker, having rushed for more than 600 yards four of the last five seasons.

BEST ISOLATION BLOCKER: Cecil Martin, Eagles

He's an excellent athlete who takes good angles to his blocks and can block linebackers on the move. He also is relentless in working to sustain his blocks.

BEST RECEIVER OUT OF BACKFIELD: Larry Centers, Bills

He consistently finds ways to get open when working against faster linebackers and almost never drops a pass.

MOST VERSATILE: Fred Beasley, 49ers

No other fullback combines his ability to catch the ball out of the backfield, hit the hole with great running burst and consistently open holes in the ground game.

block moving targets.

Bottom line: Versatile fullback who is not dominant in one area but is capable of getting tough yards in the running game, contributing as a receiver and opening holes as a lead blocker.

GRADE: 7.1

T14. Rob Konrad, Dolphins

6-3 255 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Versatile player who has good running and receiving skills. Has excellent size and athletic ability. Has above-average speed and quickness.

Weaknesses: Lacks a mean streak and the toughness needed in a fullback. Durability is a concern. Struggles as a lead blocker; looks lost in space and has trouble hitting the moving target. Must be more physical.

Bottom line: Has the size, speed and ability to become a consistent offensive force in the Dolphins backfield.

GRADE: 7.0

T14. Daimon Shelton, Bears

6-0 258 Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Plays with an impressive base and gets good pop at the point of attack. Does a good job of sealing the second level, hits the moving target and shows the ability to block in space. Has the strength to win short-area battles against bigger players.

Weaknesses: Lacks speed and elusiveness in the open field. Cannot run over defenders and pick up yards after contact in the open field. Struggles to catch the ball away from his body. Average hands.

Bottom line: Starter who is a good fit for the Bears' offense because his power and blocking essentially make him an extra offensive lineman in front of running back Anthony Thomas.

GRADE: 7.0

T14. Mack Strong, Seahawks

6-0 238 Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Does a good job of picking up first downs in short-yardage situations. A north-south runner. A tough interior blocker who gets great pop at the point of attack. Can sustain blocks with good technique and lower-body strength.

Weaknesses: Lacks lateral movement and natural balance. Struggles in space when trying to hit moving targets. Runs with stiff upper body and has trouble catching the ball on the run. Lacks the ability to make tacklers miss.

Bottom line: One of the NFL's better isolation blockers. Will play a limited role as a receiver and short-yardage runner.

GRADE: 7.0

T17. Mike Anderson, Broncos

6-0 230 Age: 28 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Can find the cutback lanes. Displays a second gear in the open field and has the ability to bounce the ball outside.

Weaknesses: Is not very elusive in the open field. Needs to improve route running ability. Has had some injury problems, so durability is somewhat of a concern. Isn't a dominant run blocker.

Bottom line: Willingly accepted move to fullback, a change that improves the versatility of the Broncos backfield dramatically.

GRADE: 6.9

T17. Heath Evans, Seahawks

6-0 249 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has a strong combination of size and speed. A powerful short-yardage runner. Does a nice job as a lead blocker. Has some upside as a blocker.

Weaknesses: Inconsistent as a blocker in space and does not always take great angles. Loses a lot of power by playing upright. Lacks technique and overall efficiency as a blocking back.

Bottom line: Shows upside as an all-around fullback and flashed some of that ability as a rookie last season. Overall, however, he did not live up to expectations.

GRADE: 6.9

T17. Dan Kreider, Steelers

5-11 242 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Very physical and powerful lead blocker with explosiveness. Excels on isolation blocks in hole.

Weaknesses: A one-dimensional fullback. Struggles to change direction. Does not carry ball or catch it out of backfield.

Bottom line: Value to Steelers is as lead blocker between tackles for running backs. Will be productive for Jerome Bettis and company between the tackles.

GRADE: 6.9

20. Richie Anderson, Jets

6-2 230 Age: 30 10th year

Strengths: Has great athletic ability. Shows good burst through the hole and has adequate straight-line speed. Rarely drops a catchable ball. Can line up anywhere on the field.

Weaknesses: Not a big-play threat. Lacks speed. Can't outrun defenders or make them miss in the open field. Lacks explosiveness and leg drive as a blocker.

Bottom line: Not an ideal fit for this scheme but he can be an effective target in the passing game.

GRADE: 6.8

T21. Jim Finn, Colts

6-0 235 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has a great motor and always is working to sustain his blocks. Has good overall athleticism and soft hands. Can pick up the tough yards after contact.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size and strength. Needs to develop blocking skills. Rarely makes defenders miss.

Bottom line: Is versatile enough to pound the ball between the tackles and catch the ball out of the backfield.

GRADE: 6.7

T21. Brad Hoover, Panthers

6-2 225 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: As versatile and as hard working as they come. Shows soft hands in the passing game and does a nice job of getting open as a safety valve. Will hold ground versus the blitz.

Weaknesses: Does not have great speed after the catch. Needs to bulk up. Lacks the

lower body strength to drive his blocks.

Bottom line: Is a versatile contributor on offense and does the little things right. Will never be a great blocker, runner or receiver, but provides adequate production in all three areas.

GRADE: 6.7

T21. Terry Jackson, 49ers

6-0 232 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Runs low to the ground and will lower his shoulder and drive legs upon contact. Displays good vision and balance as a runner. Does a good job of recognizing cutback lanes and changes directions well. Will catch the ball away from his body.

Weaknesses: Lacks the bulk of an effective lead blocker and can be overpowered at the point of attack. Does not have ideal speed as a runner.

Bottom line: Reserve who is versatile enough to contribute as a short-yardage runner and receiver and on special teams.

GRADE: 6.7



CRAIG MELVIN FOR TSN

T21. Harold Morrow, Vikings

5-11 232 Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Punishing straight-line blocker who gets good pop at point of attack. Will knock defenders backward upon initial contact. Plays with great toughness and power. Primarily an inside threat.

Weaknesses: Shows limited athletic ability and mobility. Struggles in space and will miss the moving target. Average ability in the passing game.

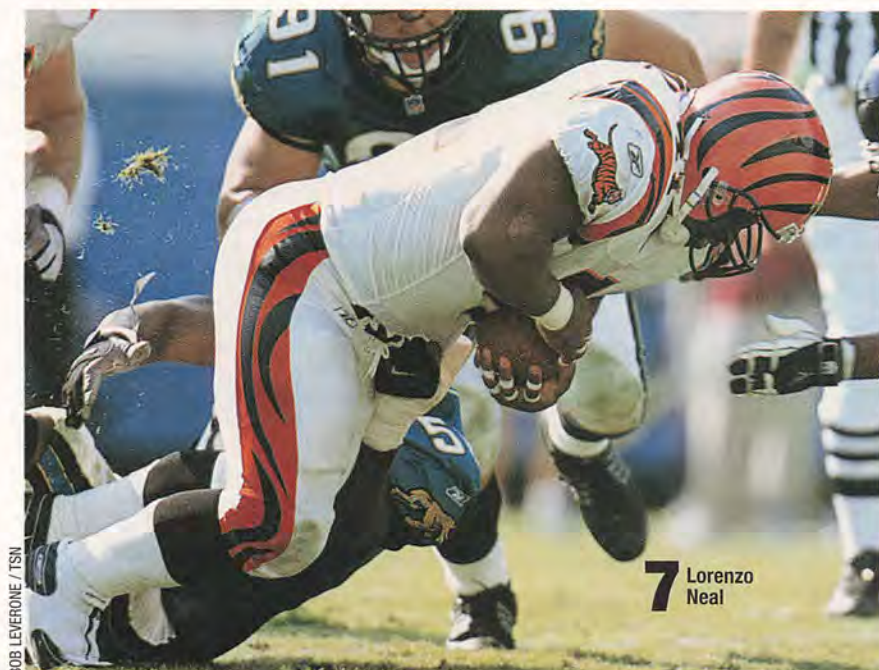
Bottom line: Starting fullback who will make main contribution on Vikings' special teams.

GRADE: 6.7

T25. Patrick Pass, Patriots

5-10 215 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent hands and will catch the ball away from his body. Shows excellent run-after-the-catch skills. Can



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

7 Lorenz Neal

make big plays in the passing game.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size needed to be an effective lead blocker. Lacks speed and creativity as a runner.

Bottom line: Classic role player. Contributes on all special teams, is excellent at covering kicks and also has had some success as a kick returner.

GRADE: 6.6

T25. Robert Thomas, Cowboys

6-1 273

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has good size and adequate playing speed. Is a physical blocker with good initial quickness, strength and toughness. Plays with great leverage and keeps legs driving. Is an adequate receiver.

Weaknesses: Is coming off a season-ending ankle injury. Lacks elusiveness and speed as a runner and the change-of-direction skills needed to block moving targets. Doesn't have ideal athleticism.

Bottom line: Is a powerful lead blocker who will get time as a starter or backup.

GRADE: 6.6

T27. J.J. Johnson, Browns

6-1 230

Age: 28 4th year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to play fullback or running back. Has some blocking ability. Has good pass-catching skills. Possesses good running skills; can make the first defender miss in the open field.

Weaknesses: Has been plagued by injuries throughout NFL career. Lacks the speed to get outside. Does not run with good power. Needs to improve blocking and play with more leverage.

Bottom line: Trying to revive career after an inconsistent, injury-filled, three-year tenure in Miami.

GRADE: 6.5

T27. Jon Ritchie, Raiders

6-1 250

Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Physical player with good feet and

instincts. Blocks in the passing game and catches the ball well.

Weaknesses: Never carries the ball. Has adequate strength but struggles as the lead blocker in the running game. Doesn't create mismatches in the passing game and is a one-dimensional player.

Bottom line: Dependable starter but will have limited role this season.

GRADE: 6.5

T29. Bob Christian, Falcons

5-11 232

Age: 33 10th year

Strengths: Is versatile and has good blocking skills. Does a great job of keeping his shoulders square and hitting the line of scrimmage at pad level. Has quick feet and can hit a moving target.

Weaknesses: Lacks great size and power and ideal base. Occasionally will have trouble sustaining blocks. Has poor open-field speed and won't make many tacklers miss.

Bottom line: Is a veteran who does all the little things. Will be able to contribute as a receiver out of the backfield, a short-yardage runner and an isolation blocker.

GRADE: 6.4

T29. Zach Crockett, Raiders

6-2 245

Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Runs the ball well in short-yardage situations and displays quickness through the hole. Is a willing blocker and can make catches.

Weaknesses: Not nifty enough to be a running back. Lacks instincts in open space and break-away speed. Not an asset on special teams.

Bottom line: A tough veteran backup who will pick up tough yards and will be effective as a lead blocker.

GRADE: 6.4

T29. Fred McCrary, Chargers

6-0 235

Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: A savvy veteran who plays with leverage. Is a dependable outlet in passing game and a valued special teams player.

Weaknesses: Skills are not overly impressive. Is unable to adjust after contact, or change directions and sustain blocks. Lacks power and is not a good blocker. Is not physical at point of attack.

Bottom line: Can contribute on special teams but offers little as an every-down player.

GRADE: 6.4

T29. Nick Williams, Bengals

6-2 267

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Great size and strength. Good initial pop at the point of attack. Hard worker. Never gives up on a play. Effective straight-line runner will pick up tough yards. Shows soft hands as a receiver.

Weaknesses: Has trouble picking up the blitz in pass protection. Has trouble blocking in space. Biggest weakness is inability to stay healthy.

Bottom line: When healthy, is solid backup with ability to open holes.

GRADE: 6.4

T33. Tony Carter, Broncos

6-0 235

Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Tough lead blocker who will play through pain. Is an effective receiver out of the backfield. Has the ability to step in and get the job done over a short period of time.

Weaknesses: Has trouble blocking a moving target. Has problems picking up the blitz in the running game. Was bothered by a shoulder injury all of last year.

Bottom line: Adequate backup who should be able to keep starter Mike Anderson fresh by playing 10-15 snaps each game.

GRADE: 6.2

T33. Jameel Cook, Buccaneers

5-10 237

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Powerful runner in the open field. Can change directions and hit the moving target. Does a good job sustaining blocks and works to finish. Has good receiving skills.

Weaknesses: Must add bulk and get stronger. Average skills as a ballcarrier.

Bottom line: Could see some more time as a lead blocker in two-back sets, but Mike Alstott will get almost all of the short-yardage carries and receptions.

GRADE: 6.2

T33. Deon Dyer, Dolphins

5-11 255

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Adequate straight-line power runner who lowers his shoulder to pick up tough yards. Exceptional isolation blocker who plays with a good base. Fierce competitor who works to finish blocks.

Weaknesses: Has marginal athletic ability. Lacks the speed to get outside; is strictly a between-the-tackles runner. Hands are inconsistent.

Bottom line: A one-dimensional player who never will be much of a threat as a runner or receiver.

GRADE: 6.2

T33. Chris Hetherington, Rams

6-3 250

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has nice size and solid receiving skills. Does a good job of quickly getting into routes, has soft hands and shows the ability

to adjust to the ball in the air.

Weaknesses: Lacks power and bulk as a blocker. Does not play with good leverage. Is not elusive as a runner and does not have good straight-line speed.

Bottom line: Adequate reserve who isn't capable of consistently opening up holes in the running game but can be a reliable receiver out of the backfield. **GRADE: 6.2**

T33. Wes Ours, Colts

6-0 284 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has outstanding size. Dominates undersized linebackers. Plays with a mean streak and is a fierce competitor. Is an excellent red-zone target.

Weaknesses: Does not have a second gear in the open field. Does not pick up yards after contact. Is not a big playmaker. Lacks ideal initial quickness.

Bottom line: Can play lead blocker on limited basis but basically is an adequate reserve. **GRADE: 6.2**

T33. Alan Ricard, Ravens

5-11 237 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Tries hard. Good blocker.

Weaknesses: Doesn't take great angles to blocks. Lacks good pop at point of attack. Does not change angles well. Does not contribute in passing game. Recurring shoulder problems are a concern.

Bottom line: Offseason defections make Ricard the only true fullback on the roster. **GRADE: 6.2**

T39. Bryan Johnson, Redskins

6-1 234 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Shows good change of direction skills and has adequate speed and quickness. Played with better leverage and improved positioning as a blocker last season. Has reliable hands and does a nice job catching the ball on the run.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size, bulk, base and overall strength of a dominant lead blocker. Lacks elusiveness and is not a threat as a runner or receiver.

Bottom line: Won't play a significant role in the Redskins' one-back, pass-oriented offense. **GRADE: 6.1**

T39. Jerald Sowell, Jets

6-0 237 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Runs with good power and leverage. Has soft hands and can catch the ball away from his body. Can block a moving target. Shows above-average burst to the hole.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size of a lead blocker and won't outrun any defenders. Must protect the ball better in traffic. Struggles when forced to isolate block a physical interior linebacker.

Bottom line: Is versatile but too inconsistent to play for long stretches. Must improve route running and blocking. **GRADE: 6.1**

T41. Stanley Pritchett, Bears

6-2 242 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has a nice combination of size,

speed and hands as a runner and receiver.

Weaknesses: Does not have ideal lower body strength and sometimes takes poor angles to blocks. Struggles to hit the moving target. Lacks change of direction and vision as a runner. Running style is too straight-line; does not show a lot of patience.

Bottom line: Isn't a good fit for the Bears' scheme; doesn't contribute on special teams and is beginning to age. **GRADE: 6.0**

T41. Jamie Reader, Eagles

6-0 238 Age: 28 2nd year

Strengths: Plays with good leverage and has decent pop at the point of attack. Has the lower-body strength to anchor against blitzing linebackers when in position. Catches the ball well and runs smooth routes.

Weaknesses: Does not have good size or burst. Struggles to change directions as both a runner and blocker.

Bottom line: Versatile backup who lacks experience but is capable of filling in for Cecil Martin in the short or long term. Will continue to make his primary contribution on special teams. **GRADE: 6.0**

T43. R.J. Bowers, Steelers

6-0 245 Age: 28 2nd year

Decent athlete with good overall power effective in short yardage situations. **GRADE: 5.9**

T43. Sam Gash, free agent

6-0 240 Age: 33 8th year

An aging veteran who is an aggressive, physical lead blocker but is not a starter at this stage of his career. Lacked the ability to block moving targets last season. **GRADE: 5.9**

T43. Cliff Groce, Texans

5-11 240 Age: 30 5th year

Short-area power player who has a history of injuries, does not have great athletic ability or vision and is a one-dimensional straight-line inside runner. **GRADE: 5.9**

T43. Detron Smith, Jaguars

5-10 230 Age: 28 7th year

High-effort player, but with the exception of special teams, he does not fill a role. Would struggle if forced into starting lineup. **GRADE: 5.9**

T43. Matt Snider, Texans

6-3 242 Age: 26 4th year

Is a good athlete, and effort and ability in space are solid. Is not an overpowering blocker but will give up body and is excellent on special teams. **GRADE: 5.9**

T43. Patrick Washington, Jaguars

6-2 244 Age: 24 2nd year

Is adequate on special teams and has some upside but should never be a starter. **GRADE: 5.9**

T49. Sean Bennett, Giants

6-1 230 Age: 26 4th year

Has good burst to the hole as a runner and soft hands as a receiver. Has trouble staying healthy. Is not a dominant lead blocker. **GRADE: 5.8**

T49. Moran Norris, Saints

6-1 250 Age: 24 2nd year

Has potential as a runner and receiver but does not have good blocking skills. Spent most of his time on the inactive list last season. Must improve and play a bigger part on special teams units. **GRADE: 5.8**

T51. Dennis McKinley, Cardinals

6-2 248 Age: 25 4th year

Is a good but not great special teams player. Has some upside because of size and technique as a blocker. **GRADE: 5.7**

T51. Brock Olivo, Lions

6-0 232 Age: 26 5th year

Reserve and special teams contributor who lacks size, receiving skills and speed. Has strength and is an adequate blocker. **GRADE: 5.7**

53. Morgan Kane, Ravens

6-0 221 Age: 26 1st year

Runs hard between the tackles, but injuries, lack of lower body strength and poor feel for running lanes make him a depth player. **GRADE: 5.5**

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Najeh Davenport, Packers

6-1 246 Miami (Fla.), 4th round

Has a tremendous combination of size and speed. Should play on passing downs because of his versatility. Lacks the strength and base to be an every-down fullback but works well out of the single-back set and is an excellent receiver. **GRADE: 6.2**

2. Jarrod Baxter, Texans

6-1 245 New Mexico, 5th round

Will be used in short-yardage and goal-line situations and as a lead blocker in two-back sets. Do not look for him to develop into a great lead blocker. **GRADE: 5.7**

3. Jamar Martin, Cowboys

5-11 244 Ohio State, 4th round

Is a prototypical interior lead blocker with above-average speed. Needs to improve ability to hit moving targets. **GRADE: 4.8**

4. Kyle Johnson, Panthers

6-0 242 Syracuse, 5th round

Is a versatile and a productive short-yardage ball-carrier. Does everything—whether it's running, blocking or receiving. But durability is a concern. **GRADE: 4.7**

5. Omar Easy, Chiefs

6-1 244 Penn State, 4th round

Skills are raw and he has good size, but he is too slow for halfback and not a good enough blocker for fullback. Has good size but needs experience. **GRADE: 4.4**

T6. Verron Haynes, Steelers

5-9 224 Georgia, 5th round

Has the versatility to play running back and fullback. Could be an effective third-down back. **GRADE: 4.0**

T6. Charles Stackhouse, Giants

6-2 240 Mississippi, undrafted free agent

A productive, tenacious and powerful isolation blocker. Is inexperienced handling the ball and lacks burst as a runner. **GRADE: 4.0**

8. Rock Cartwright, Redskins

5-7 237 Kansas State, 7th round

A powerful runner and good short-yardage receiver; he might take some playing time away from Bryan Johnson. **GRADE: 3.6**

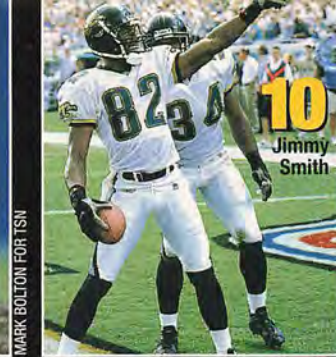
9. Jarrett Ferguson, Bills

5-8 222 Virginia Tech, 7th round

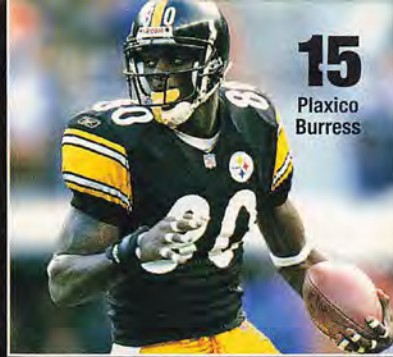
Plays with a natural base and runs with deceptive power, but his only value will be as a pass-catching fullback and special teams contributor. **GRADE: 3.0**



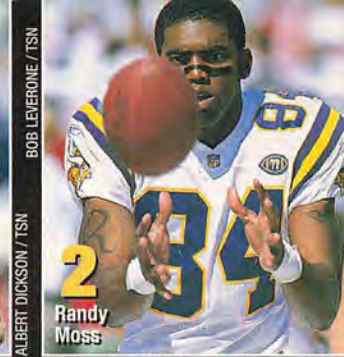
1 Marvin Harrison



10 Jimmy Smith



15 Plaxico Burress



2 Randy Moss

excellent job of setting up defensive backs and finding soft spots in zone coverage. Is intelligent and has a great understanding of hot reads; will get open immediately after recognizing blitz situations. Has excellent hands. Catches the ball away from his body and shows tremendous concentration. Adjusts well on deep throws. Has great athletic ability and outstanding body control. Shows burst in and out of cuts and is a huge threat after the catch. Will get downfield and throw a block. Plays bigger than his size. A clutch player who makes a lot of big plays.

Weaknesses: Occasionally disappears in games. Was not as aggressive or productive over the middle last year.

Bottom line: Explosive starter who has not lost a step and is one of the most technically sound receivers in the league. **GRADE: 9.2**

T4. Terrell Owens, 49ers

6-3 226 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Shows rare strength after the catch and has excellent size, making it difficult for smaller corners to cover or tackle him. An outstanding red zone target. Shows good change-of-direction skills for his size and the ability to make the first defender miss. Has good straight-line speed and is a huge threat on fade and vertical routes. Has very big, soft hands, catches the ball away from his body and wins most jump-ball situations.

Weaknesses: Will lose focus and appears disinterested at times. Not explosive in or out of cuts. Struggles to regain balance when successfully jammed at the line. Not very efficient or aggressive as a blocker in the running game. Has had several run-ins with coach Steve Mariucci, and character is a concern.

Bottom line: One of the most physically gifted receivers in the league with a rare combination of power, elusiveness, size and speed. Has the ability to take over a game. **GRADE: 9.2**

6. Keyshawn Johnson, Buccaneers

6-4 212 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Has great size and hands. Does an excellent job of getting off jams at the line of scrimmage. Has the ability to go up and catch the ball over most defensive backs. Runs smooth routes. Catches the ball in traffic. Takes hits and holds on to the ball. Shows an extra gear in the open field.

Weaknesses: Does not have great vertical speed. Takes too long to reach top speed. Has lost some big-play flair. Does not come down with as many fade routes or jump balls as he did.

Bottom line: A solid starter and No. 1 receiver who has the physical traits and competitiveness to take over a game. Many offensive additions should make a huge difference for him this season. The new offensive system should be a plus. **GRADE: 9.1**

7. Eric Moulds, Bills

6-2 204 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has size, speed, strength and excellent all-around athleticism. Is always a vertical threat. Shows an explosive first step, gets good push off the line and is able to generate separation from the cornerback. Has tremendous body control, jumping ability and sideline awareness. One of few receivers who consistently beats double coverage. Does a good job using quickness and strength to beat press coverage. Has soft hands and rarely drops a catchable pass.

Weaknesses: Had trouble sustaining focus and consistency the past few seasons. **Bottom line:** Is coming off a bit of a down year but should benefit from the addition of quarterback Drew Bledsoe and the likelihood of facing fewer double teams because of Peierless Price's breakout season in 2001. **GRADE: 9.0**

8. David Boston, Cardinals

6-2 222 Age: 24 4th year

Strengths: Uses his size well and has good balance, body control and leaping ability. Has tremendous speed and is a threat downfield. Good burst allows him to drive defensive backs off the ball. Has big, soft hands.

Weaknesses: Route running is inconsistent. Takes too long at times to get open on short to intermediate routes and does not show a sense of urgency when running routes.

Bottom line: Clearly one of the biggest and most dangerous receivers in the NFL. Should benefit from quarterback Jake Plummer playing behind an improved line and from the addition of tight end Freddie Jones, who should draw attention away from Boston. **GRADE: 8.8**

9. Rod Smith, Broncos

6-0 200 Age: 32 8th year

Strengths: Has great size. Shows excellent body control and the ability to make the acrobatic catch. Runs excellent routes. Is tough to tackle in the open field. Is a threat to turn a small gain into a big play. Does a good job of getting a clean release off the line of scrimmage.

Weaknesses: Isn't the vertical threat he once was. Needs to do a better job of securing the ball when in a crowd. Does not have great leaping ability. Big-play capability is clearly on the decline. Was bothered by ankle injuries for much of 2001 season.

Bottom line: Still one of the best and most productive receivers in the league, but his speed is in decline and concerns about durability are on the rise. **GRADE: 8.7**

10. Jimmy Smith, Jaguars

6-1 213 Age: 33 10th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and quickness. Has excellent body control in and out of

ON THE RISE: Chris Chambers, Dolphins

He made a big impact as a rookie. But with RB Ricky Williams forcing teams to commit a safety to the running game, Chambers could have an even better 2002.

ON THE DECLINE: Darnay Scott, free agent

The aging vertical receiver missed the majority of the Bengals' offseason workouts, then was rendered obsolete when the team signed Michael Westbrook.

SLEEPER: Terry Glenn, Packers

He wasn't able to stay healthy or win his teammates' confidence in New England but could break out in Green Bay with QB Brett Favre and a good running game.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Koren Robinson, Seahawks

He has the size, speed and athleticism to become a dominant receiver, but he tends to disappear in games and was too inconsistent last season.

BEST VERTICAL THREAT: David Boston, Cardinals

He has the speed to outrun physical corners, the strength to outmuscle undersized corners and the leaping ability to win most jump balls.

BEST POSSESSION RECEIVER: Keenan McCardell, Buccaneers

He lacks great speed but knows how to get open and almost never drops a ball. McCardell should be an excellent complement to Keyshawn Johnson.

BEST AFTER THE CATCH: Terrell Owens, 49ers

This playmaker is a powerful, fast and elusive runner who is a threat to turn the smallest gain into a big play every time he touches the ball.

BEST HANDS: Wayne Chrebet, Jets

Many of the league's receivers have excellent hands, but none shows better focus and concentration when the ball is in the air than Chrebet.

routes. Makes a lot of big catches. Shows great concentration when the ball is in the air. Can play a physical style. Is excellent in the red zone.

Weaknesses: Has had medical problems—some severe. Age is beginning to become a factor. Has lost a step.

Bottom line: Smart, efficient No. 1 receiver. Should have a few more 100-catch seasons before his skills really start to deteriorate.

GRADE: 8.3

11. Marty Booker, Bears

6-0 209 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good strength, big hands and long arms. Has the ability to overpower defensive backs. Shows a good understanding of coverage and has made huge strides as a route runner and consistency as a receiver. Has good speed and leaping ability.

Weaknesses: Is erratic catching the ball. Drops some catchable passes and appears to lose focus at times. Does not show great burst off the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Young, emerging go-to receiver can play outside and inside positions but must improve concentration when ball is in the air.

GRADE: 8.2

T12. Tim Brown, Raiders

6-0 195 Age: 36 14th year

Strengths: Crafty veteran with excellent quickness in and out of cuts, great awareness in routes, and impeccable body control. Able to beat defender with first step, excellent overall hands able to catch ball in traffic or bad ball. Still able to make big plays with separation and route running ability.

Weaknesses: At 36, is no longer a deep threat and doesn't possess blazing speed or consistent deep burst. Has trouble if defensive back can muscle him at line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Remains in top physical condition and has excellent rapport with quarterback Rich Gannon. Should be effective, especially on short to intermediate routes.

GRADE: 8.0

T12. Joe Horn, Saints

6-1 206 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Has good size and speed. Can adjust while the ball is in the air. Able to go over defenders. Is tough and can catch the ball in traffic.

Weaknesses: Has had some off-field problems. Takes plays off. Does not work as hard as a secondary receiver. Must be more consistent.

Bottom line: A deep threat who continues to get better. Should benefit from the additions of receivers Donte Stallworth and Jerome Pathon.

GRADE: 8.0

T12. Jerry Rice, Raiders

6-2 196 Age: 39 17th year

Strengths: A remarkable football player with excellent size, outstanding durability and the ability to make big plays. Amazing hands, able to catch ball in stride, in traffic

or underneath coverage in soft spots of a zone defense. Runs excellent routes. Still can be sneaky fast, getting past defensive backs on occasion.

Weaknesses: No longer a deep threat. Gets disrupted by physical defensive backs.

Bottom line: Working out of the slot, expect another productive season from Rice. Oakland will take advantage of this future Hall of Famer's tireless skills.

GRADE: 8.0

T15. Troy Brown, Patriots

5-10 193 Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Has good speed and tremendous suddenness in and out of cuts. Makes route running look effortless. Shows the ability to adjust his routes to stay on the same page with his quarterback. Has excellent hands and will make the tough catch. Will catch the ball over the middle and is excellent runner after the catch.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size. Is not a vertical threat. Needs to improve ability to separate from defensive backs. Is not an inviting target in the red zone because of lack of size.

Bottom line: With continued good conditioning should play at a high level another three or four years.

GRADE: 7.9

T15. Plaxico Burress, Steelers

6-5 229 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Good body control and athleticism. Smooth, effortless route runner. Utilizes size in fade route. Excels on intermediate to deep routes, building impressive speed as he goes.

Weaknesses: Lacks initial quickness off line, which hurts effectiveness in short passing game. Unable to get large separation from defensive backs.

Bottom line: Look for Burress to improve on production from a year ago if he stays focused and takes advantage of unbelievable size and athleticism.

GRADE: 7.9

T15. Ed McCaffrey, Broncos

6-5 215 Age: 34 12th year

Strengths: Is very physical and aggressive. Will make the tough catch in traffic. Does a great job of coming back to the ball when his quarterback is in trouble. Knows how to find the soft spots in zone coverage. Can make the defender miss in the open field.

Weaknesses: Durability is a concern after he missed all but one game last season with a broken leg. Needs to get a clean release off the line of scrimmage to be effective. Is not a huge downfield threat.

Bottom line: If healthy, the prototypical possession receiver.

GRADE: 7.9

T15. Keenan McCardell, Buccaneers

6-1 190 Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Has decent size combined with great hands and good route-running skills. Does a nice job of finding holes in zones and in the underneath seams. Works the short to intermediate passing game to his

advantage. Is dependable.

Weaknesses: Lacks overall strength. Can be pushed out of routes. No longer has great deep speed and doesn't break tackles.

Bottom line: Might be starting to slow down but still is capable of producing solid and consistent numbers. Will be a great fit as a No. 2 receiver and take some heat off Keyshawn Johnson.

GRADE: 7.9

T19. Ike Hilliard, Giants

5-11 195 Age: 26 6th year

Strengths: Shows good vertical speed and has adequate size. Gets good separation from the line of scrimmage and has good initial burst. Does nice job of adjusting to the ball in the air. Is a threat to make the big play after the catch. Smooth route-runner with excellent body control. Knows where to find the soft spot in zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Is not a threat in the red zone and gets pushed around in routes. Is coming off foot surgery.

Bottom line: Playmaker who has durability concerns but has the explosiveness and elusiveness as a runner to make a big play with every touch.

GRADE: 7.8

T19. Hines Ward, Steelers

6-0 200 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Impressive production, consistency and competitiveness. Outstanding in short to intermediate routes. Excellent route running skills. Very soft hands. A student of the game with a great feel for defenses. Effective blocker with great overall toughness.

Weaknesses: Lacks great deep speed, so never will be a vertical threat.

Bottom line: An absolute play-making machine. A tough player who takes pride in his blocking ability. Works to finish each play. Ideal spot would be slot receiver; will produce wherever Steelers put him.

GRADE: 7.8

21. Johnnie Morton, Chiefs

6-0 190 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Smart receiver who has outstanding hands, snatches the ball away from the body. Has excellent concentration on the ball. Able to make adjustments while the ball is in the air. More quick than fast and runs routes smoothly. Quick off the line of scrimmage. A nice short burst and suddenness, which creates separation against man-to-man coverage. Knows how to get open.

Weaknesses: Struggles against physical coverage. Gets pushed off routes, which ruins timing.

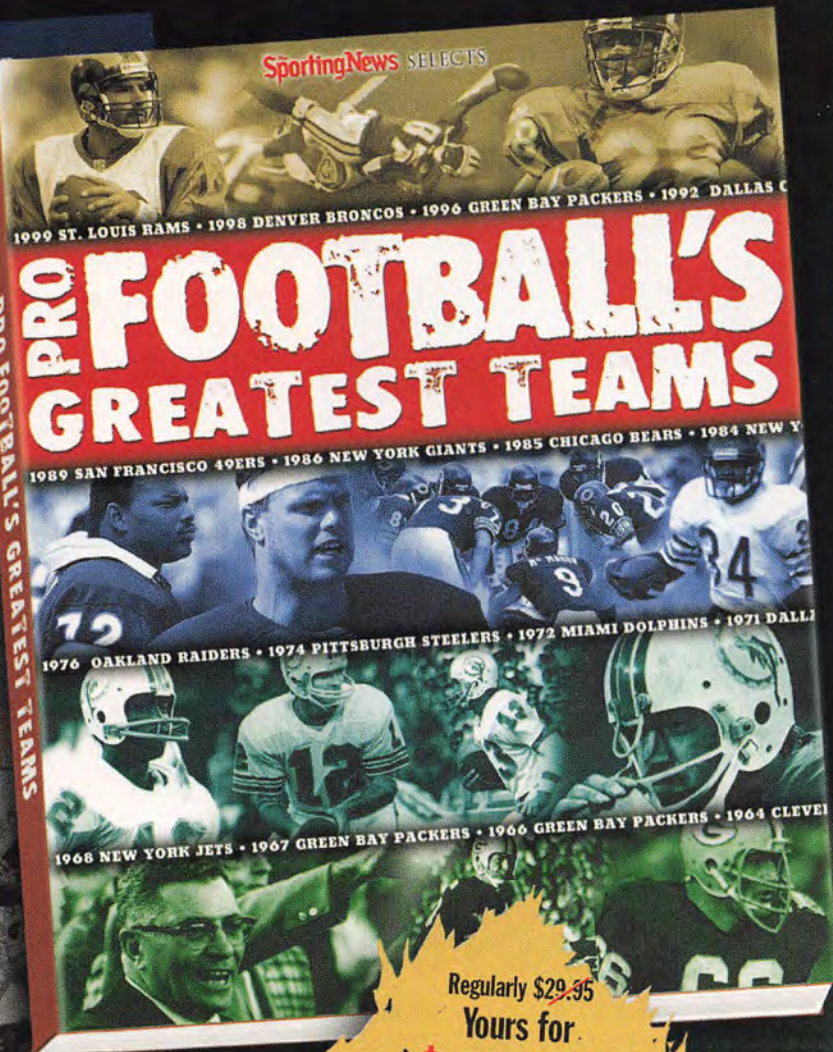
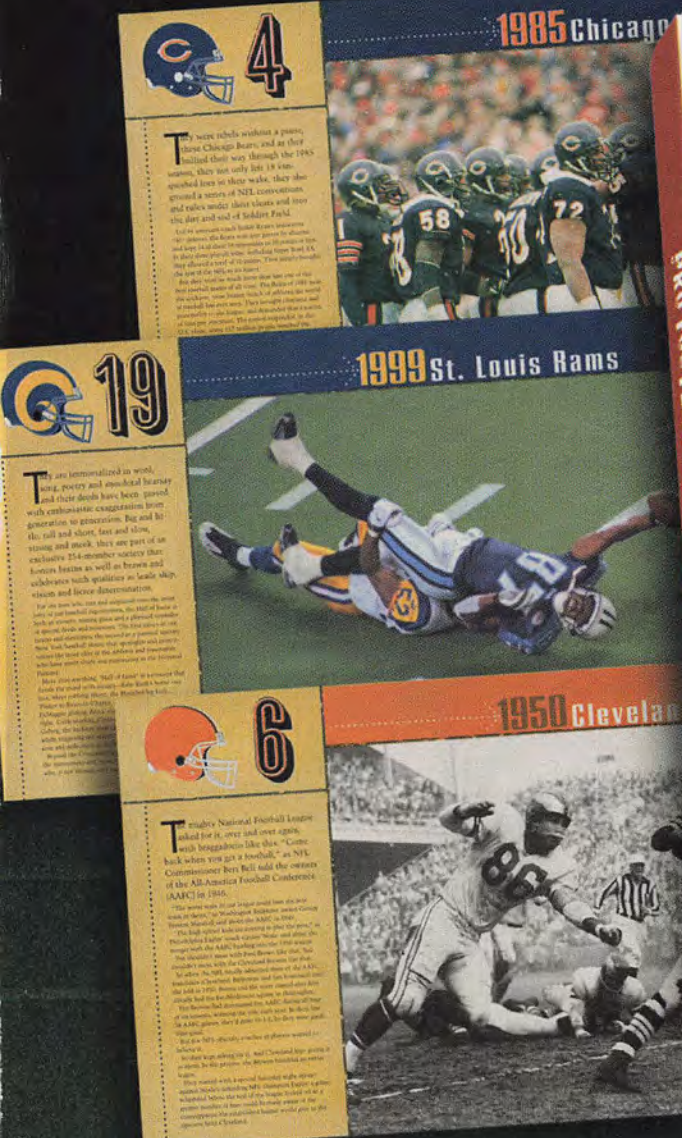
Bottom line: A free-agent acquisition who should flourish in this offense and give quarterback Trent Green the dependable target that was missing on the team last season.

GRADE: 7.7

T22. Muhsin Muhammad, Panthers

6-2 217 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has good size and is a vertical threat. Has the ability to make the big play.



Regularly \$29.95
Yours for
only \$19.95! plus S&H
Save \$10.00!

Pro Football's Greatest Teams

What's the greatest NFL team of all-time? Is it the '78 Pittsburgh Steelers? Is it the '62 Green Bay Packers? Is it the San Francisco 49ers' dynasty of the 1980s, or is it the only undefeated and untied team in league history, the '72 Dolphins?

With over 200 historic black and white and full color photographs throughout, *Pro Football's Greatest Teams* recaptures the greatness of each of those teams, and more, in special chapters that remember those seasons.

Football fans will bask in the memories of Walter Payton and Franco Harris, of Kurt Warner and Bob Griese.

Then we take the next step and dare to name the very best.

9" x 11 1/4" • 176 pages.
Hardbound with dust jacket
Item #693

Call Toll Free:

1-800-825-8508

Dept. 02NFL

or visit our online bookstore: sportingnews.com/books

Send check or money order to: The Sporting News, Dept. 02NFL, P.O. Box 11229, Des Moines IA 50340. Or fax your order to 515-246-6933 Dept. 02NFL. Credit card only for phone or fax orders. Shipping and handling: No P.O. Boxes please. Charges: For U.S. orders, \$3.95 for the first book, \$1.95 for each additional book. For Canadian orders, \$6.95 for the first book, \$1.95 for each additional book.



4 Terrell Owens

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Hits a second gear once he gets going and is tough to take down. Can be a threat down the sideline.

Weaknesses: Has been very inconsistent. Tends to be lazy and take plays off. Struggles to find soft spots in zone. Needs to stay healthy.

Bottom line: Is a physical specimen that at one time was a consistent and dangerous threat in the passing game. Not a big part of the Panthers' offense last year. If healthy and on the field, more vertical shots will play to his strength. **GRADE: 7.6**

T22. Amani Toomer, Giants

6-3 208 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and soft hands. Has adequate speed to be a vertical threat. Works to sustain blocks down field and shows good strength. Will go up and grab the high ball out of the air.

Weaknesses: Doesn't show great explosiveness. Lacks quickness in the short area. Is not a significant threat after the catch.

Inconsistent. Should do a better job of using size and strength to break press coverage. Lacks ideal body control and athletic ability.

Bottom line: Possession receiver who is an excellent complement to Ike Hilliard but is inconsistent and must improve for the team's passing game to be more productive. **GRADE: 7.6**

T24. Marcus Robinson, Bears

6-3 213 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has prototypical size and speed. Has excellent burst off the line of scrimmage and shows good leaping ability. Has strong hands and catches the ball away from his

body. Is a threat on the fade route and in the red zone. Has good quickness.

Weaknesses: Is an inconsistent route runner and much less successful in the middle of the field. Does not show great feel for zone coverage. Durability is a huge concern.

Bottom line: Strictly an outside receiver, he is working his way back into the rotation after missing all but five games last season because of a knee injury. **GRADE: 7.5**

T24. Bill Schroeder, Lions

6-3 205 Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Bursts off the line to make plays downfield. Route running and effectiveness in the intermediate passing game have improved. Has good hands and the ability to catch and run. Is strong and will block.

Weaknesses: Disappears at times. Doesn't consistently find soft spots in zone coverages. Does not win enough jump balls. Has had durability problems.

Bottom line: No. 1 receiver who lacks consistency and is aging but still has big-play ability. Should benefit from a stronger supporting cast than he had in Green Bay. **GRADE: 7.5**

T24. James Thrash, Eagles

6-0 200 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has good size, is durable and has deceptive vertical speed. Shows good acceleration in the open field and does a nice job of tracking down the ball. Uses good upper-body strength to beat press coverage. A powerful runner after the catch.

Weaknesses: Tends to disappear in games. Hands are inconsistent. Fails to make clean catches on a lot of passes, costing him yards after the catch. Lacks ideal burst in and out of cuts and does not have ideal lateral movement.

Bottom line: The Eagles' No. 1 receiver is most comfortable in the intermediate-to-vertical passing game, but his inconsistency and inability to get open quickly make him a better fit as a No. 2 wideout. **GRADE: 7.5**

T27. Chris Chambers, Dolphins

5-11 210 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Good athlete who has excellent speed. Has long arms. Can catch the ball at its highest point and make spectacular catches in traffic. Has good explosiveness. Shows ideal change of direction skills and can make the first defender miss in the open field.

Weaknesses: Is a poor route runner. Does not have a great feel for recognizing coverages and knowing how to find the soft spots in zone. Must be more consistent.

Bottom line: Should be able to use blazing speed to get behind defenses and make some big plays. But won't have the advantage of anonymity this season. **GRADE: 7.4**

T27. Curtis Conway, Chargers

6-1 196 Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Has deceptive speed, good quickness and a short-area burst. Uses great change-of-direction skills to get open on short to intermediate routes. Capable of

making big plays.

Weaknesses: Is not physical and does not like contact. Can be slowed by physical defensive backs and doesn't always play hard away from the play.

Bottom line: Former vertical threat became more of a possession receiver when he joined Chargers in 2000. As the senior member of a young, inexperienced receiving corps, he figures to be double-teamed often. **GRADE: 7.4**

T27. Terry Glenn, Packers

5-11 195 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Shows the ability to get off the line with excellent quickness. Gets exceptional separation on vertical routes. Consistently turns defensive backs around and shows good burst in an out of cuts. Hands always have been exceptional. Shows excellent body control and leaping ability. Is a big-play threat after the catch.

Weaknesses: Off-the-field problems are well-documented. Lacks ideal size, struggles with more physical corners and has a hard time staying healthy.

Bottom line: A No. 1 receiver who is extremely explosive but must stay healthy and out of trouble. **GRADE: 7.4**

T27. Kevin Johnson, Browns

5-11 195 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Can make plays down the field. Shows the ability to catch the ball away from his body and in a crowd. Has a strong build and can handle physical matchups. Is a solid blocker. Runs good quick routes.

Weaknesses: Does not have blazing speed. Lacks ideal height for a receiver.

Bottom line: The Browns' undisputed No. 1 receiver. With an improved offense and better quarterback play should have another productive year. **GRADE: 7.4**

T27. Derrick Mason, Titans

5-10 188 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Does a good job of getting open. Shows good quickness as a receiver. Is capable of making defenders miss in the open field. Has excellent vision as a runner and does a good job of getting upfield.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have great size for a No. 1 receiver. Is not a threat in the end zone. Minor injuries hindered his production throughout the 2001 season and durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Has developed into a reliable receiver that rarely drops the ball and has big-play capabilities after the catch. **GRADE: 7.4**

T27. Peerless Price, Bills

5-11 190 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good athletic ability, adequate size and tremendous straight-line speed. Shows some explosiveness off the line and the ability to create separation. Leaping ability is outstanding.

Weaknesses: Loses concentration and drops catchable passes. Has had problems tracking down ball in air.

Bottom line: Might never be a premier receiver,

but has a chance to build on success of last season because of the additions of quarterback Drew Bledsoe and rookie Josh Reed, who is a legitimate threat at No. 3 receiver.

GRADE: 7.4

T27. Darnay Scott, free agent

6-1 204

Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Good size and speed. Good feel for passing game. Uses strength and size to get open in intermediate passing game. Will go over the middle and is willing to take the hit. Has very good body control and sideline awareness.

Weaknesses: Poor concentration leads to dropped balls. Will get lazy and disappear on occasion. Has issues off the field. Has had problems staying healthy.

Bottom line: Veteran vertical receiver is coming off a knee injury.

GRADE: 7.4

T27. Michael Westbrook, Bengals

6-3 220

Age: 30 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and strength. Shows the speed to be a big-play threat in the vertical passing game. Displays good body control and the ability to adjust to the poorly thrown ball. Can make the tough catch in traffic.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent, has been an underachiever and does not always show great concentration when the ball is in the air. Plays smaller than size indicates and can be pushed around by more physical corners.

Bottom line: Underachieving veteran who could benefit from a fresh start with the Bengals but has yet to translate natural skills into production.

GRADE: 7.4

T35. Laveranues Coles, Jets

5-11 196

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Great vertical threat. Goes over the middle and makes the tough catch in traffic. Can line up in the slot or on the outside. Can outrun defenders and make them miss in the open field.

Weaknesses: Needs experience to improve his technique. Hasn't shown the ability to find the soft spot in zone coverage. Is not comfortable getting off the line of scrimmage. Disappears from games at times.

Bottom line: Emerged as the Jets' best playmaker and go-to receiver in his second year and still can improve. Should develop into one of the league's top receivers.

GRADE: 7.3

T35. Germane Crowell, Lions

6-3 216

Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Runs well and is athletic. Is smooth in and out of cuts, runs sharp routes and has deceptive speed. Shows great initial burst off the line and has the size to beat press coverage. Is a leaper and can make tough catches in traffic.

Weaknesses: Not a great blocker despite his size. Loses concentration and occasionally drops passes. Missed most of the 2001 season because of a knee injury.

Bottom line: Is young, has strength and speed and will get time in the No. 2 slot.

GRADE: 7.3

T35. Rod Gardner, Redskins

6-2 216

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent size and speed. Rarely gets pushed out of routes and has good strength. Shows good burst off the line, allowing him to create separation. Has good body control, especially near the sidelines. Shows good awareness.

Weaknesses: Appears to lose focus at times and drops too many catchable passes. Tends to round off routes and lacks experience reading and recognizing different coverages. Must do a better job catching the ball on the run.

Bottom line: Is Redskins' biggest and most talented receiver but is likely to struggle adjusting to coach Steve Spurrier's complex passing schemes early. Should be the featured receiver by season's end.

GRADE: 7.3



T35. Jeff Graham, free agent

6-2 206

Age: 33 12th year

Strengths: Has good size and is a reliable receiving threat. Is a natural athlete who runs smooth routes. Is willing to catch ball in traffic and has an explosive first step after catch. Makes critical, third-down plays.

Weaknesses: Does not have great vertical speed and is not a big threat to stretch the field. Is not getting any younger and has had problems staying healthy. Struggles as productive blocker.

Bottom line: Is one of the more underrated No. 2 receivers in the NFL, but some off-field issues and the availability of Willie Jackson forced the Falcons to release him.

GRADE: 7.3

T35. David Terrell, Bears

6-3 215

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Shows the ability to make the spectacular play. Can make one-handed catches and does a good job of catching the ball in traffic. Shows good timing on jumps and can catch ball at highest point. Is sharp in and out of cuts. Uses footwork, body and hands to avoid the jam.

Weaknesses: Tends to oversell routes and to make too many moves. Takes some plays off or walls off instead of driving defenders out of the play.

Bottom line: Has excellent speed and playmaking skills and should push for more playing time this season.

GRADE: 7.3

T40. Kevin Dyson, Titans

6-1 201

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Is an excellent target in the red zone. Displays a second gear in the open field and is capable of running away from most defenses. Shows the ability to catch the ball on the run.

Weaknesses: Does not run sharp routes. Will struggle to adjust to the ball when it is in the air. Needs to improve his ability to get a clean release. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: With improved suddenness and route-running skills, he should become one of the better No. 2 receivers in the league.

GRADE: 7.2

T40. Oronde Gadsden, Dolphins

6-2 215

Age: 31 5th year

Strengths: Excellent possession receiver. Has good size, exceptional hands and knows how to get open. Effective route runner who does a good job setting up a defender. Dangerous red-zone threat who knows how to use his size against smaller corners.

Weaknesses: Lacks game-breaking speed. Is not elusive after catch and rarely makes the defender miss in the open field. Durability is suspect.

Bottom line: Probably never will be a big-play threat but gives Dolphins a big target in the red zone. Underrated No. 2 possession receiver.

GRADE: 7.2

T40. Joey Galloway, Cowboys

5-11 197

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has rare speed and the ability to get separation in the vertical passing game. Shows good leaping ability and can make plays on balls in the air. Does a good job of using quickness and burst to avoid being jammed at line of scrimmage. Has good change of direction skills and is a threat after the catch.

Weaknesses: Is not an outstanding route runner. Does not have the size of a prototypical wide receiver.

Bottom line: A playmaking vertical receiver who has the explosiveness and receiving skills to have a big year under new offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet.

GRADE: 7.2

T40. Qadry Ismail, Colts

6-0 200

Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Has great straight-line speed. Is a threat to turn a small gain into a big play.

Gets a good push off the line of scrimmage. Has above-average hands and the leaping ability to challenge for the ball in the air.

Weaknesses: At times is tentative going over the middle. Durability is a concern. Struggles against bigger corners. Tends to get jammed. **Bottom line:** Still has the speed and big-play ability to have a productive season starting opposite Marvin Harrison. **GRADE: 7.2**

T40. Willie Jackson, Falcons

6-1 212 Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Is an excellent red zone target. Runs sharp routes and will find the soft spot in zone coverage. Will go over the middle, make the tough catch in traffic and hold on to the ball after a big hit.

Weaknesses: Lacks the speed to play a factor in the vertical passing game and is not a threat to turn a small gain into a big play. Does not show great elusiveness or the ability to make the defender miss in the open field.

Bottom line: Reliable possession receiver who has soft hands. Does a good job getting open in the short to intermediate zone. **GRADE: 7.2**

T40. David Patten, Patriots

5-10 195 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has a natural ability to run down the field and make big plays in the passing game. Has outstanding speed and can get behind most NFL cornerbacks. Does an excellent job of getting in and out of cuts without a lot of wasted motion.

Weaknesses: Lacks size and has had durability problems. Is not much of a blocker.

Bottom line: Is a perfect fit for the Patriots offense and the ideal complement to Troy Brown. **GRADE: 7.2**

T46. Darrell Jackson, Seahawks

6-0 199 Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Competitive and tough. Quick and explosive in and out of cuts. Runs precise routes, wasting little motion. Has good hands and short-area burst. Catches ball away from his body and over his head. Can catch the ball on the move without losing his stride. Quick and elusive in the open field.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size, speed and talent of a No. 1 receiver. Isn't a vertical threat. Tends to drop some catchable balls and also has had fumbling problems.

Bottom line: One of the league's underrated receivers. Has the potential to develop into one of the NFL's best No. 2 receivers. **GRADE: 7.1**

T46. Shawn Jefferson, Falcons

5-11 185 Age: 33 12th year

Strengths: Has better-than-average speed and good overall quickness. Runs patterns well and shows the ability to gain separation from defenders. Can make plays downfield. Does nice job of finding soft spots in zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks great size. Is not physical and will get pushed around. Loses a lot of challenges in the air. Age is a concern; he's on



the downside of career.

Bottom line: A crafty veteran who is not the same deep threat he once was. Will start and be part of a three-man rotation. **GRADE: 7.1**

T46. Koren Robinson, Seahawks

6-1 213 Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Is a deep threat. Shows the ability to make catches in traffic and be a reliable target. Has very soft hands and catches ball away from his body. Does a nice job of elevating and holding on to the ball.

Weaknesses: Needs better technique at the line of scrimmage. Not a very strong receiver for size. Does not show the ability to find soft spots in zone. Tends to be mechanical at times when trying to set up defensive backs in man coverage.

Bottom line: An extremely gifted but raw player who will get better with experience. Should develop into one of the more dangerous receivers in the NFL within the next year or two. **GRADE: 7.1**

T49. Wayne Chrebet, Jets

5-10 188 Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Has outstanding concentration when the ball is in the air. Uses his quickness and intelligence to get off the line. Is one of the more reliable short-yardage receivers in the game. Is stronger than his frame would indicate. Shows great body control and the ability to catch the ball over his head.

Weaknesses: Not an effective red-zone target because of his height. Lacks overall speed and is not a threat in the vertical passing game.

Bottom line: Is at his best playing the role of the possession receiver in the short to

intermediate zone and should have another solid season. **GRADE: 7.0**

T49. Donald Hayes, Patriots

6-4 208 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Is a big, physical receiver. Is productive over the middle and on third down. Also makes plays in the red zone. Has good hands and does a nice job on the high ball. Will pick up yards after the catch.

Weaknesses: Tends to get pushed out of his routes. Needs to be more consistent and not take plays off. Does not show ability to get open on straight-line routes.

Bottom line: If focused, he could take a lot of pressure off of smaller receivers David Patten and Troy Brown. **GRADE: 7.0**

T49. Rocket Ismail, Cowboys

5-11 183 Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Has adequate size and the speed to beat most defensive backs in man-to-man matchups. Shows excellent change-of-direction skills, quickness and short-area burst. Hands have improved so much that he now is considered a reliable receiver.

Weaknesses: Short to intermediate route running skills are average at best. Lacks the ability to consistently set up the defender or find the soft spots in zone coverage. Does not like going over the middle. Durability and age are concerns. Isn't strong enough to consistently beat press coverage.

Bottom line: Should benefit from Cowboys' increased emphasis on the vertical passing game this season. **GRADE: 7.0**

T49. Jerome Pathon, Saints

6-0 182 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: A deep threat. Can turn a short throw into a big play. Has good hands and is an excellent route runner. Great body control allows him to separate from defensive backs.

Weaknesses: Tends to get pushed out of routes. Loses focus at times and drop catchable balls.

Bottom line: Has a high upside but must stay healthy. Is the No. 2 receiver until Donte Stallworth is ready, then will move to No. 3, a better fit. **GRADE: 7.0**

T49. Frank Sanders, Cardinals

6-2 200 Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Long strider with good size. Knows how to get open. Shows the ability to explode in and out of cuts. Has excellent body control and is a threat in the red zone. **Weaknesses:** Disappears at times. Doesn't like to go over the middle and lacks great downfield speed. Does not get much separation. Hands and focus are inconsistent.

Bottom line: Has big-play flair but isn't always reliable. Aging but still has the tools of a No. 2 receiver and should benefit from the attention given to David Boston on the opposite side. **GRADE: 7.0**

T49. Travis Taylor, Ravens

6-1 200 Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Big, physical player who has good size, speed and ability. Has good body

control and good hands. Is a vertical threat. Performs well in the red zone.

Weaknesses: Lacks outstanding quickness and explosiveness and struggles with speed of pro game. Must improve concentration and consistency.

Bottom line: A big target in the passing game who could become more of a factor in the intermediate zones and over the middle.

GRADE: 7.0

T49. Peter Warrick, Bengals

5-11 195

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Rare quickness and lateral movement. Dangerous after the catch. Adjusts to the ball while it is in the air. Outstanding ability to get off line untouched. Very good feel for zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size. Not a vertical threat. Doesn't generate separation in routes. Inconsistent hands. Must improve concentration, consistency.

Bottom line: At best working out of the slot. Can line up on the outside.

GRADE: 7.0

T56. Derrick Alexander, Vikings

6-2 206

Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Runs sharp patterns and shows the ability to find soft spot in zone coverage. Catches ball away from his frame and has soft hands. A good combination of size and speed.

Weaknesses: Has had trouble staying healthy. Will be learning second new scheme in two years and will need time to adjust. Not a great blocker in the running game.

Bottom line: Veteran who was brought in to replace Cris Carter as complementary receiver to Randy Moss.

GRADE: 6.9

T56. Tim Dwight, Chargers

5-9 180

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to catch passes or return kicks. Has big-play ability. Has outstanding quickness and acceleration. His speed is decent. Can plant and redirect. Can turn a short pass into a long gain.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and has inconsistent hands. Durability is a concern because he plays aggressively and takes a lot of big hits.

Bottom line: If the Chargers can find an edge receiver to complement Curtis Conway, Dwight could remain in the slot, where he excels.

GRADE: 6.9

T56. Jacquez Green, Redskins

5-10 175

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Shows good burst off the line of scrimmage and gets into routes immediately. Does a good job of recognizing coverages and knows how to find the soft spots in zones. Shows good concentration when the ball is in the air. Works to sustain blocks in running game.

Weaknesses: Is tiny, so durability is always going to be a concern. Physical cornerbacks are capable of muscling him out of his routes.

Bottom line: Lacks ideal build for a No. 2

receiver but has perfect combination of speed and quickness for the Redskins' scheme. Could have a career year this season.

GRADE: 6.9

T56. Az-Zahir Hakim, Lions

5-10 178

Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Is explosive. Can avoid jams by defensive backs. Has tremendous feet and balance. Cuts with agility and speed.

Outstanding open-field runner.

Weaknesses: Tends to lose focus and tries to run before the catch. Lacks size and strength. Has a hard time holding on to the ball.

Bottom line: No. 3 slot receiver who is an elusive, big-play threat. Likely will struggle if injuries force him to be the No. 2.

GRADE: 6.9

T56. Freddie Mitchell, Eagles

5-11 184

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is elusive, shows big-play ability and gets upfield after the catch. Displays tremendous body control and quickness. Has very good hands. Improved significantly last season.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal strength and will get pushed out of his route occasionally. Does not run sharp routes and needs to improve ability to read coverages. Lacks ideal speed and the ability to simply outrun defenders.

Bottom line: Inconsistent and raw receiver who eventually should win the No. 2 spot because of his explosiveness and playmaking skills.

GRADE: 6.9

T56. Quincy Morgan, Browns

6-1 209

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has the ability to dominate a game. Uses size, strength and speed to avoid jams. Has good size and excellent speed. Is a solid downfield blocker. Is a threat after the catch and shows a second gear. Has soft hands. Is an exceptional athlete.

Weaknesses: Drops a lot of passes and is inconsistent. Needs to improve ability to read coverage. Needs to improve route running skills.

Bottom line: Coming off disappointing rookie season but is more than capable of handling No. 2 wide receiver spot opposite Kevin Johnson.

GRADE: 6.9

T56. Reggie Wayne, Colts

6-0 203

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: A possession receiver with outstanding quickness and soft hands. Can adjust to the ball in the air and make the tough catch in traffic. Excellent route runner with good balance.

Weaknesses: Lacks great speed and ideal size. Struggles vs. bigger defensive corners. Must improve technique as a blocker. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: If healthy, has the skills to beat most opposing No. 3 corners and have a productive season.

GRADE: 6.9

T56. Terrence Wilkins, Rams

5-10 180

Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: An explosive runner with

excellent hands. Catches on the run well and is a threat as a runner after the catch. Has tremendous body control. Excellent at working the sideline and setting up defensive backs.

Weaknesses: Is undersized, will get pushed around at times and lacks durability. Does not have great leaping ability.

Bottom line: Slot receiver with ideal speed and quickness but has a history of injury problems. Will need to be rested more than he was in Indianapolis.

GRADE: 6.9



T65. Ron Dugans, Bengals

6-2 205

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Very strong and powerful receiver. Runs polished routes. Smooth in and out of cuts. Very reliable hands. Excellent concentration when the ball is in the air.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal burst, speed and vertical presence. Not a big-play threat after the catch.

Bottom line: No. 3 or No. 4 receiver who has excellent possession skills. Lacks big-play ability.

GRADE: 6.8

T65. Brian Finneran, Falcons

6-5 210

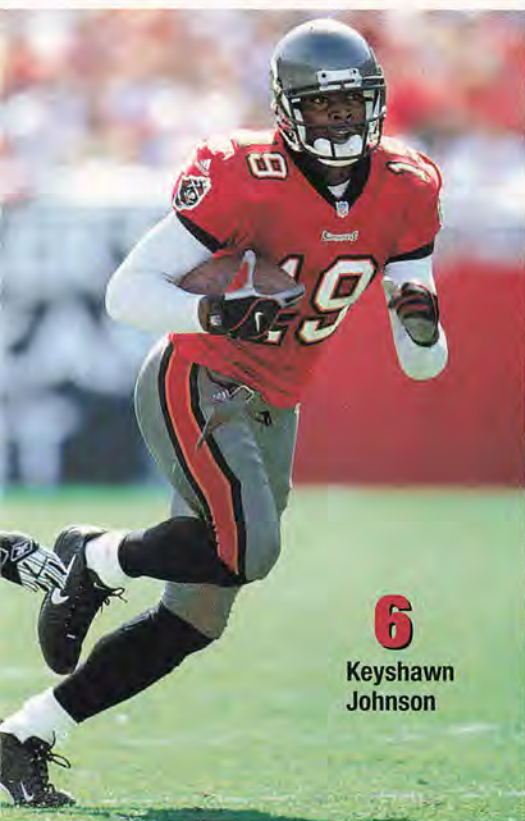
Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: A tall, physical receiver with great strength. Is a threat because of his size. Will challenge for the ball in the air and is a good target in the red zone.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have much quickness or burst in his routes. Lacks the speed to get downfield. Does not show much after the catch. Doesn't run consistent routes.

Bottom line: A possession receiver who continues to improve but lacks speed. Is nothing more than a No. 4 receiver and wouldn't get much playing time on most rosters.

GRADE: 6.8



6
Keyshawn Johnson

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

T65. Antonio Freeman, free agent

6-1 198 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Is durable despite his age. Has good size and still shows competitive speed. Has the quickness and route-running ability to get open in the short-to-intermediate zones.

Weaknesses: Is no longer the vertical threat he once was and has lost some burst with age.

Bottom line: A No. 2 receiver who has lost big-play ability but still can get open and contribute. **GRADE: 6.8**

T65. Joe Jurevicius, Buccaneers

6-5 230 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has good skills. A possession receiver who works the underneath and intermediate routes. Makes the catch in traffic. Is an effective blocker.

Weaknesses: Not a deep threat. Lacks quickness in and out of routes and an extra gear in open field. Not productive enough on third down.

Bottom line: Will compete for playing time during the season. Should expect a special role—particularly in the red-zone packages—in Jon Gruden's system. **GRADE: 6.8**

T65. Marvin Minnis, Chiefs

6-1 171 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Potential to make a big play on every play. A deep threat who tracks down the ball in vertical routes. Good quickness. Catches the ball in a crowd. Runs crisp routes, getting in and out of cuts quickly.

A good feel for the passing game.

Weaknesses: Not very physical. Gets disrupted by bumping on pass routes. Needs to be more consistent and more focused.

Bottom line: Reserve who can flourish as the slot receiver by using quickness and explosiveness to gain favorable matchups. **GRADE: 6.8**

T65. Sylvester Morris, Chiefs

6-3 216 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Excellent size and plays physical. Good natural speed; a vertical threat with a flare for big plays. Makes tough catches. Adjusts to the ball in the air.

Weaknesses: Lacks quickness or explosiveness off of the snap. Durability is an issue; returning from a knee injury. Struggles with focus and concentration.

Bottom line: Reserve who has potential as a top receiver, but needs to stay healthy, show more focus and consistently produce. **GRADE: 6.8**

T65. Todd Pinkston, Eagles

6-2 170 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Lanky wideout shows excellent burst off the line and runs precise routes. Has good speed, long arms and reliable hands. Shows solid body control and leaping ability when the ball is in the air.

Weaknesses: Wears down late in games, has trouble with physical matchups and lacks weight. Does not have a feel for defenses and appears lost at times.

Bottom line: Inconsistent vertical receiver is probably better suited to be a No. 3 receiver, though he could get some time in the No. 2 role. **GRADE: 6.8**

T65. Bobby Shaw, Jaguars

6-0 186 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has excellent quickness. Does a good job of avoiding jams at the line of scrimmage. A solid route runner. Has strong, excellent hands. Holds on to the ball when hit.

Weaknesses: Is not explosive. Struggles against tight man-to-man coverage. Is not a big vertical threat. May never be a big-play receiver.

Bottom line: Possible No. 2 receiver, but his struggles on the edge make us think he fits best as a No. 3, working in the slot. **GRADE: 6.8**

T65. J.J. Stokes, 49ers

6-4 217 Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Is big, shows reliable hands and will catch the ball away from his body. Will contribute as a blocker and shows the strength to be dominant at the point of attack. Durable.

Weaknesses: Hasn't learned how to use size to his advantage and isn't physical. Does not get the speed to get downfield or the quickness to beat press coverage.

Bottom line: No. 2 receiver with good size who has been unable to take advantage of frequent single coverage opportunities in San Francisco. Because he is inconsistent, he is a better fit as a No. 3 receiver. **GRADE: 6.8**

T74. Isaac Byrd, Panthers

6-1 188 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Shows good strength. Has ability to get off the line of scrimmage. Is quick, with good change of direction. Will go over the middle and challenge for the ball.

Weaknesses: Lacks the speed to get deep.

Does not show much ability to stretch the defense. Numerous durability problems (hamstring, Achilles, foot, concussion).

Bottom line: Has some starting experience, but in terms of physical tools and talent, is nothing better than a No. 3 receiver. If Patrick Jeffers does not heal quickly and settle in as the No. 2 receiver, Byrd might get time in that role. **GRADE: 6.7**

T74. Patrick Jeffers, Panthers

6-3 218 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and strength. More than a possession guy. Runs excellent, quick and sudden routes. Shows the ability to settle in versus the zone. Has good hands and shows the ability to catch away from body.

Weaknesses: Has played in more than 10 games once in his six-year career. Struggles separating from tight coverage. Is limited to the short and intermediate zone. Does not show a second gear in the open field.

Bottom line: A possession receiver who can be a very good No. 2 outside receiver when healthy. Yet he's quickly becoming a player not worth the money or the risk. **GRADE: 6.7**

T74. Chad Johnson, Bengals

6-2 192 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Good at catching ball away from body. Has potential to be an exceptional route runner. Tremendous body control, good quickness. Excellent burst in and out of cuts.

Weaknesses: Had trouble bouncing back from a broken collarbone last year. Not a very effective blocker in the running game.

Bottom line: No. 3 or No. 4 receiver who flashes big-play ability. Needs to be more physical and consistent. **GRADE: 6.7**

T74. Patrick Johnson, Jaguars

5-10 191 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Can be a vertical threat. Has the speed and quickness to run by most defensive backs. Is aggressive and will challenge for any ball. Has strong hands. Is capable of making big plays against No. 3 cornerbacks.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size and is not real physical. Gets pushed out of his routes in press coverage.

Bottom line: Possible No. 2 or No. 3 receiver with the deep speed to draw a lot of attention even if used as nothing but a decoy. **GRADE: 6.7**

T74. Eddie Kennison, Chiefs

6-1 190 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Adequate size and outstanding speed for the vertical game. Has a flare for big plays, shows good hands and grabs the ball away from the body. Outstanding burst.

Weaknesses: Runs sloppy routes.

Inconsistent. Struggles against zone coverage. Does not fight to get open unless it is on a vertical route.

Bottom line: Produces some big plays and forces defenses to respect his speed, but too inconsistent to be a true No. 2 receiver.

GRADE: 6.7

T74. Brandon Stokley, Ravens

5-11 197

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has outstanding quickness and good deep speed. Can catch the high ball. Runs well after the catch. Will go over the middle. Has improved route-running ability. **Weaknesses:** Must improve intermediate receiving skills. Is not effective vs. zones. Lack of size makes durability a concern.

Bottom line: An ideal No. 3 receiver who could contribute on the perimeter as a vertical threat. Rising player could improve dramatically with playing time.

GRADE: 6.7

T80. Troy Edwards, Steelers

5-9 192

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Good overall quickness with balance and a burst enabling him to separate. Good route runner. Strong return man.

Weaknesses: Only an adequate deep threat. Lacks size, explosiveness and big play ability.

Bottom line: A real disappointment. Never has produced as wide receiver. Lacks confidence and consistency.

GRADE: 6.6

T80. Bobby Engram, Seahawks

5-10 185

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Is very quick. Shows ability to beat press coverage. Has a compact build and plays with a lot of burst. Runs sharp routes and has reliable hands.

Weaknesses: Is not able to create separation or get over the top of cornerbacks. Has trouble against physical corners. Is not explosive enough to consistently set up a defender.

Bottom line: Is serviceable in his role as the Seahawks' No. 3 receiver. Contributes both in the slot and in the short zone. Also plays key role as veteran teacher for team's young wide receivers.

GRADE: 6.6

T80. Santana Moss, Jets

5-10 185

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good leaping ability and can catch the ball at the highest point. Shows great quickness. Accelerates in and out of cuts. Has great speed and acceleration after the catch.

Weaknesses: Drops catchable passes and struggles when a bigger corner can jam him. Must improve as a blocker.

Bottom line: Is raw and must stay healthy to gain experience but is explosive and can produce big plays working out of the slot.

GRADE: 6.6

T80. Dez White, Bears

6-1 215

Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Has terrific overall ability. Is big, strong and fast. Shows good burst off the line of scrimmage and the speed to get deep. Is a powerful runner after the catch and has the ability to break tackles.

Weaknesses: Has inconsistent concentration and hands. Is tentative and does not run crisp or effective intermediate routes. Has a bad habit of turning ball over.

Bottom line: Still too raw to be counted on. Might end up as the team's No. 4 receiver, which would mean significantly less playing time this season.

GRADE: 6.6

T84. Robert Ferguson, Packers

6-1 209

Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Has reliable hands and tremendous quickness. Shows flashes of ability to turn small gains into big plays after the catch.

Weaknesses: Still is inexperienced and inconsistent. Doesn't make a lot of catches in traffic and doesn't show enough confidence over the middle. Despite his size, gets pushed around at times.

Bottom line: A possession receiver who still raw is and needs to improve his technique but has size, speed and explosiveness.

GRADE: 6.5

T84. Matthew Hatchette, Raiders

6-3 193

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Is a big, strong receiver with good natural tools. Can snatch the ball away from his body and has good power and push off the line of scrimmage. Is an adequate route runner.

Weaknesses: Lacks pure vertical speed and doesn't show consistent ability to separate. Does not make a lot of plays. Does not really mix it up in traffic. Has marginal suddenness.

Bottom line: Has good size and pass catching skills but his lack of big-play flair and separation limits his potential.

GRADE: 6.5

T84. T.J. Houshmandzadeh, Bengals

6-1 197

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Very quick in and out of cuts. Stops and starts quickly, too. Shows good power getting off the line of scrimmage. Uses body to shield the defender from the ball. Good body control.

Weaknesses: Occasionally runs before securing the ball. Does not show a great feel for zone coverage. Lacks ideal football intelligence.

Bottom line: Developmental player who will contribute on special teams.

GRADE: 6.5

T84. MarTay Jenkins, Cardinals

6-0 201

Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has good speed and elusiveness, which helps make him dangerous after the catch. Has good hands and shows a lot of quickness off the line.

Weaknesses: Too inconsistent. Must dramatically improve his route-running skills and the ability to read coverages.

Bottom line: Is a legitimate deep threat, but the rest of his game has holes.

GRADE: 6.5

T84. James Jett, Raiders

5-10 170

Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: A veteran with excellent speed. Can stretch defense vertically and has strong

hands able to catch ball in crowd.

Weaknesses: Production is inconsistent. Seems to lack concentration. Gets pushed out of routes when jammed at line. Does not always fight to get open.

Bottom line: Needs to be more productive to keep his job as well as his roster spot with this team.

GRADE: 6.5

T84. Kevin Lockett, Redskins

6-0 187

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Shows good separation and builds speed as he goes. Runs sharp routes and does an excellent job sitting in the soft spots of zone coverage. Has quick feet and explodes in and out of cuts. Hands and concentration have improved.

Weaknesses: Is on the lean side and does not show the ability to get a clean release against physical corners.

Bottom line: Is underrated and has good quickness. Should push for the No. 3 spot as the season progresses.

GRADE: 6.5

T84. Ricky Proehl, Rams

6-0 190

Age: 34 13th year

Strengths: Knows his role and always is prepared. Able to find soft spots in zone coverage, wastes little motion in and out of cuts and consistently catches the ball away from his body.

Weaknesses: Never has been much of a vertical threat, and his speed is on the decline.

Bottom line: Possession receiver who faces the opposition's No. 3 or No. 4 cornerback. Takes on added importance this season because of the departure of No. 3 receiver Az-Zahir Hakim. Has the instincts and route-running ability to excel in his role for at least another year.

GRADE: 6.5

T91. D'Wayne Bates, Vikings

6-2 215

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: A big player who has deceptive speed. Has tremendous upside. Excellent leaping ability and can make tough catch in traffic. Had a great offseason.

Weaknesses: Hands are inconsistent. Has a tendency to catch with the body. Runs poor routes, does not have ideal recognition skills and does not show the ability to adjust to the blitz.

Bottom line: No. 3 receiver who has the potential to start but must improve consistency.

GRADE: 6.4

T91. Fred Coleman, Patriots

6-0 190

Age: 27 2nd year

Strengths: Has nice size and good speed. Can catch the ball in traffic and hold on to it after contact. Shows the ability to separate from the defensive back.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve route running skills.

Bottom line: Has enough speed to be a vertical threat and may be a perfect fit as the Pats' No. 4 receiver. But primary contributions will come on special teams.

GRADE: 6.4

T91. Sean Dawkins, Vikings

6-4 218

Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Has impressive size. Strong

enough to beat press coverage and is a threat in the red zone. Can find soft spot in zone coverage. Will go over the middle and make tough catch in traffic.

Weaknesses: Lacks the speed to be much of a factor in the vertical passing game. Will lose concentration when the ball is in the air and drop some catchable passes.

Bottom line: Inconsistent but experienced No. 4 receiver who does a good job of getting open. **GRADE: 6.4**

T91. Jajuan Dawson, Browns

6-1 197 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size and speed. Has excellent hands, and usually catches the ball away from his body. Has ability to shake one-on-one matchups with double moves. Uses size to break tackles. Shows good intelligence in route running. Is very smooth.

Weaknesses: Has little explosiveness and is not a threat in the vertical game. Is not elusive in the open field. Has been injured for much of the past two years.

Bottom line: Possession-type receiver who needs to stay healthy and be more consistent. **GRADE: 6.4**

T91. Ron Dixon, Giants

6-0 190 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size, deceptive speed and excellent quickness. A threat to turn a small gain into a big play. Has good change-of-direction skills and shows elusiveness.

Weaknesses: Inconsistent. Doesn't always run sharp routes and doesn't show great concentration when the ball is in the air. Needs to improve ability to recognize defenses.

Bottom line: Reserve receiver who has the natural tools to be a starter but needs to play with better discipline and improved consistency. **GRADE: 6.4**

T91. Trevor Gaylor, Chargers

6-3 195 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Is a competitive, hard worker with speed and athleticism. Understands passing game and has improved route running. Is a big target and is sneaky fast at times. Can push off to create separation.

Weaknesses: Moves too mechanically. Can be knocked off his route in man coverage. Has inconsistent hands. Is not overly exciting or much of a playmaker.

Bottom line: Has improved and has the work ethic to improve more. If his learning curve continues to rise, he one day might become a starter. **GRADE: 6.4**

T91. Terance Mathis, Steelers

5-10 185 Age: 35 12th year

Strengths: Very competitive and crafty possession receiver. Reads defenses well, catches ball in traffic. Good toughness.

Weaknesses: No longer has great speed or ability to separate effectively. Can be pushed around in press coverage.

Bottom line: A well-prepared player who has intelligence, instincts and a strong work ethic. **GRADE: 6.4**



T91. James McKnight, Dolphins

6-1 198 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has good size and adequate speed. Shows good short-area quickness and the ability to change directions quickly. Has good body control. Shows good sideline awareness and appears most comfortable running vertical routes.

Weaknesses: Has problems finding the soft spot in zone coverage. Struggles to create separation and rarely explodes in and out of cuts. Hands are marginal, and he does not work to sustain blocks in the running game.

Bottom line: Did not make the big plays the Dolphins brought him to town for last season but has an opportunity to make amends this season. **GRADE: 6.4**

T91. Dennis Northcutt, Browns

5-10 175 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has the speed and quickness to make plays downfield. Has great short-area quickness and burst. Will create separation and has some elusiveness.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve route running skills. Is undersized and lacks strength. Can be knocked off his routes at the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Has the raw skills to play receiver; if that doesn't work out, he can return punts. **GRADE: 6.4**

T91. Larry Parker, Chiefs

6-1 205 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Physical receiver with excellent straight-line speed. Makes some impressive catches. Willing to go over the middle. Makes a big target in the red zone.

Weaknesses: Does not run great routes. Has trouble with press coverage. Lacks burst and quickness off the line of scrimmage. Inconsistent. Does not handle adversity well.

Bottom line: Reserve who is an interesting developmental player with all the tools but no clear role on this team. **GRADE: 6.4**

T91. Jerry Porter, Raiders

6-2 225 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Big, physical receiver with plenty of potential. Effective runner after the catch. Competitive player with excellent hands. A solid player in kicking game.

Weaknesses: Drops some easy passes. Doesn't seem willing to fight to get open all the time. Can appear mechanical. Has not developed as quickly as hoped.

Bottom line: Will continue to excel as coverage player in kicking game, but Oakland hopes he will become a No. 3 receiver or an additional vertical threat in their passing game. **GRADE: 6.4**

T91. Chris Sanders, Browns

6-1 190 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has great speed and good size. Shows good hands and can catch ball away from his body and over his head. Can be an effective vertical receiver.

Weaknesses: Needs to be more productive; had one touchdown reception in last four seasons with Titans. Tends to drop too many balls. Lacks good route running skills in the short and intermediate routes. Age is becoming a concern.

Bottom line: Will provide good depth and bring much-needed veteran leadership to Cleveland receiving corps. **GRADE: 6.4**

T103. Reidel Anthony, Redskins

5-11 180 Age: 25 6th year

Strengths: Has good quickness and speed. Shows good sideline awareness and the ability to outrun most defensive backs. Can change gears quickly and is a threat to turn a small gain into a big play.

Weaknesses: Takes some plays off and gets sloppy as a route runner. Has trouble getting off the press. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Undersized No. 3 vertical receiver with explosiveness and big-play ability who has been inconsistent throughout his career. **GRADE: 6.3**

T103. Donald Driver, Packers

6-0 185 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Gets good push off the line and generates separation. Has adequate height and good speed. Can be explosive after the catch and has excellent leaping ability.

Weaknesses: Must add weight and improve ability to beat press coverage. Lacks strength and gets pushed out of routes.

Bottom line: A developmental receiver who has good potential as a vertical receiver and a big-play threat. **GRADE: 6.3**

T103. Danny Farmer, Bengals

6-3 215 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Very good size. Runs well. Shows good quickness and change of direction skills. Runs sharp routes. Exceptional strength. Very good hands. Has potential to be a consistent, go-to type receiver.

Weaknesses: Lacks explosive first step. Does not drive the defender off the ball. Needs to improve ability to get a clean release against

press coverage.

Bottom line: Developmental receiver who has played well when given the opportunity. Should continue to progress. Provides excellent depth. **GRADE: 6.3**

T103. Reggie Germany, Bills

6-1 180 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and speed. Displays good quickness.

Weaknesses: Struggles occasionally to get off the line and comes off too high at times. Lacks bulk and strength. Has inconsistent hands.

Bottom line: Has the raw talent to become a threat as a No. 3 receiver but is a No. 4 or No. 5 at this time. Must improve consistency and ability to get a clean release. **GRADE: 6.3**

T103. Justin McCareins, Titans

6-2 205 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and outstanding strength. Is a player that shows the ability to keep drives alive.

Weaknesses: Does not show the ability to outrun defenders. Is not a big-play threat after the catch. Fractured the same ankle twice last year and durability is a concern.

Bottom line: He is a possession receiver that will make an impact on the team's three-receiver sets and could push for a starting role as early as this season. **GRADE: 6.3**

T103. Keith Poole, free agent

6-0 193 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Is physical and runs precise routes. Good at catching the ball while running. Displays good concentration in traffic. Challenges for the ball in the air. Not afraid to go over the middle.

Weaknesses: Lacks height, vertical speed and durability. Does not have strength to drive the defender off the ball.

Bottom line: Reliable option for short or intermediate routes as a No. 4 receiver. **GRADE: 6.3**

T103. Tai Streets, 49ers

6-2 206 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Possesses a very good combination of size and speed. Has good leaping ability, wins most jump balls and is an excellent red zone target. Will absorb the big hit and hold on to the ball.

Weaknesses: A broken leg suffered in December 2000 has hindered his explosiveness. Does not explode in or out of cuts as a route runner.

Bottom line: Vertical No. 3 receiver is coming off a down year and must regain burst and improve consistency. **GRADE: 6.3**

T103. Chris Walsh, Vikings

6-1 199 Age: 33 10th year

Strengths: Has good short area burst and does a good job changing speeds. An excellent special teams contributor. Plays with non-stop motor and has excellent work ethic.

Weaknesses: Lacks the speed to be a factor in vertical passing game or a threat after the

catch. Doesn't have great bulk and off-field problems a concern. Is overaggressive as a blocker.

Bottom line: No. 5 receiver who will continue to make main contribution on special teams while providing adequate depth at receiver. **GRADE: 6.3**

T111. Andre King, Browns

5-11 195 Age: 28 2nd year

Strengths: Is an excellent route runner. Does a good job of bursting in and out of cuts. Is a hard worker with good all-around athletic skills.

Weaknesses: Lacks great speed and has trouble separating from the defender.

Bottom line: Does not have much upside but is very steady; has been productive when given the chance. Could be a solid No. 4 receiver. **GRADE: 6.2**

T111. Herman Moore, free agent

6-4 218 Age: 32 12th year

Strengths: Has strength and size and uses it to beat press coverage. Runs routes well and can make tough catches in traffic.

Weaknesses: Speed and burst off the line are declining. Has lost some consistency and uncharacteristically dropped catchable passes last season.

Bottom line: Aging possession receiver who has durability concerns. Lacks explosiveness for the West Coast offense but should contribute as a situational receiver. **GRADE: 6.2**

T111. Rob Moore, Broncos

6-3 204 Age: 33 13th year

Strengths: Has good size and shows a good feel for the passing game. Runs excellent routes and can find the soft spot in zone coverage. Is an excellent target in the red zone.

Weaknesses: Has not played in a game since 1999 because of injuries, so durability is a big issue. Is not much of a big-play threat after the catch. Does not have the speed to outrun defenders.

Bottom line: Will push rookie Ashley Lelie for No. 3 job in Denver but is more of a No. 4 at this point of his career. **GRADE: 6.2**

T114. Larry Foster, Lions

5-10 196 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has quickness and is a threat after the catch. Gets a good push off the line and uses quickness to beat press coverage. Changes direction well and explodes in and out of cuts.

Weaknesses: Lacks speed and is not a deep threat. Not strong enough to block effectively.

Bottom line: No. 4 slot receiver who is unproven and inexperienced. Has route-running skills and some big-play ability that should develop with playing time. **GRADE: 6.1**

T114. Kevin Kasper, Broncos

6-0 193 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent hands. Is not afraid to go over the middle and take a big hit. Has good change of direction skills. Works to sustain his blocks. Is a threat to turn a small gain into a big play. Has deceptive speed.

Weaknesses: Does not run sharp routes. Has trouble finding the weak spot in zone coverage. Durability is somewhat of a concern.

Bottom line: Backup whose biggest contributions come as a return man on special teams. **GRADE: 6.1**

T114. Jeremy McDaniel, Bills

6-1 195 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has good hands and excellent concentration. Has a tremendous feel for finding soft spots in zone and uses his quick feet to get a clean release off the line. Is not afraid to go over the middle.

Weaknesses: Does not have ideal speed or ability to separate down the field. Has not exhibited much big-play flair.

Bottom line: Former No. 3 receiver who is intelligent and reliable, but durability concerns and lack of explosiveness hold him back. **GRADE: 6.1**

T117. Drew Bennett, Titans

6-5 203 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has reliable hands and shows the ability to catch the ball away from his body and on the run. Has good overall athletic ability. Will go up and catch the ball at its highest point.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve ability to adjust to the blitz. Will struggle working against more physical defensive backs.

Bottom line: Bennett is a developmental receiver that has progressed quickly. Has great potential. **GRADE: 6.0**

T117. Na Brown, Eagles

6-0 196 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good size and possibly the best hands on the team. Shows excellent body control, concentration and good burst in and out of cuts. Has good sideline awareness.

Weaknesses: Lacks overall speed and isn't a threat after the catch. Still has trouble reading coverages and makes mistakes running routes.

Bottom line: A No. 4 receiver who can get open quickly but is a nonfactor in the vertical passing game and needs to improve coverage recognition skills. **GRADE: 6.0**

T117. Jake Reed, Saints

6-3 213 Age: 34 12th year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Can get off the line and into routes. Able to find soft spots in zone coverage. Intelligent.

Weaknesses: Is not a threat down the field. Lacks ideal leaping skills; does not win many jump balls. Is not a threat after the catch.

Bottom line: Provides consistency. No longer has the speed or quickness to handle a full-time role as an outside receiver. **GRADE: 6.0**

T117. Karl Williams, Buccaneers

5-10 177 Age: 31 7th year

Strengths: Gets into routes quickly and efficiently. Dangerous after the catch. Does a nice job catching the ball on the run and getting upfield.

Weaknesses: Undersized, gets pushed

around in press situations. Lacks outstanding vertical speed. Doesn't create matchup problems on the outside for defenses.

Bottom line: Is not big, fast or talented enough to be a No. 3 receiver, but punt return ability increases his value. **GRADE: 6.0**

T121. Reggie Barlow, Raiders

6-0 190 Age: 29 6th year
Shows flashes of talent. An aging wide receiver who is inconsistent and unreliable, but a decent backup. Able to return kicks. **GRADE: 5.9**

T121. Corey Bradford, Texans

6-1 197 Age: 26 5th year
Has great quickness and good hands but injuries have impeded his progress. Has a chance to prove his worth as the main man in Houston. **GRADE: 5.9**

T121. Albert Connell, free agent

6-0 184 Age: 28 5th year
Underachieving veteran who has great athletic ability and good speed. Many off-field problems mean character is a big issue. **GRADE: 5.9**

T121. Drew Haddad, Colts

5-11 185 Age: 24 1st year
Is a big-play threat but must improve his consistency and technique before playing a big role in this offense. Durability is a concern. **GRADE: 5.9**

T121. Charles Johnson, Bills

6-0 205 Age: 30 7th year
Veteran receiver who no longer has the speed to be a factor in the vertical passing game. Lacks the burst to create good separation. A good reserve who has a knack for getting open. **GRADE: 5.9**

T121. Marcus Knight, Raiders

6-1 180 Age: 24 2nd year
Reliable hands. Not afraid to get the ball in traffic. Not a talent who offers any exciting qualities or significant upside. **GRADE: 5.9**

T121. Ken-Yon Rambo, Cowboys

6-1 195 Age: 23 2nd year
Young player with good size and athletic ability but does not play with consistency. Will need to improve route-running skills and polish overall game to become anything more than a fourth or fifth receiver. **GRADE: 5.9**

T121. Alvis Whitted, Falcons

6-0 186 Age: 28 4th year
Developmental reserve who has excellent speed and elusiveness and is a big-play threat. Does not show reliable hands or good route-running skills. **GRADE: 5.9**

T129. Scotty Anderson, Lions

6-2 184 Age: 22 2nd year
Reserve who has height and reliable hands but is not explosive. Lacks size and strength; gets pushed around. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. Eddie Berlin, Titans

5-11 194 Age: 24 2nd year
A developmental receiver who has the athleticism and reliable hands to develop into an effective possession slot receiver with time. Is limited by his lack of breakaway speed and ideal size. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. Chris Cole, Broncos

6-0 195 Age: 24 3rd year
Has blazing speed but remains in developmental stage entering third season. Will have to show an improved feel for the passing game to earn a spot on the Broncos roster following team's offseason

upgrades at receiver.

T129. Bert Emanuel, free agent

5-10 185 Age: 31 8th year
Undersized receiver who is a No. 4 at best. Is aging and has had problems staying healthy. Experienced and runs routes well enough to be productive. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. E.G. Green, Buccaneers

5-11 190 Age: 27 4th year
When healthy, he is quick and elusive. Is adept at running routes and makes many plays on short routes. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. Lenzie Jackson, Steelers

6-0 191 Age: 25 4th year
Lacks great speed and doesn't have much explosiveness, but he keeps his spot on Steelers roster because of dependability. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. Charles Lee, Packers

6-2 205 Age: 24 3rd year
A young possession receiver with good size and reliable hands who needs repetition and experience to develop. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. Darnerien McCants, Redskins

6-3 214 Age: 24 1st year
Developmental receiver who played tight end in college. Has deceptive speed, soft hands and good size. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. Travis McGriff, Falcons

5-8 185 Age: 26 4th year
Does not have size, power or strength, but is young and has some upside as a return specialist and slot receiver. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. Jeff Ogden, Dolphins

6-0 187 Age: 27 5th year
Rarely fumbles but must run better routes to have much of an impact as a receiver. Will return punts and play a minimal role on Miami offense. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. Kevin Swayne, Jets

6-1 191 Age: 27 2nd year
Contributed as the No. 3 receiver but is a better fit as the No. 4; has ability to get open against a No. 4 corner. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. Nate Turner, Chargers

6-3 210 Age: 24 1st year
Still in developmental stage as an NFL receiver. Could be a chain mover or a big receiver in the red zone with some experience, but his upside is limited. **GRADE: 5.8**

T129. Dedric Ward, Dolphins

5-9 190 Age: 27 6th year
Lacks the size and consistency to be an NFL starting receiver, but teams must respect his speed and explosiveness. Has elite change of direction skills and great acceleration in the open field. **GRADE: 5.8**

T142. Alex Bannister, Seahawks

6-5 201 Age: 23 2nd year
A developmental receiver with a good combination of size and speed. Will compete for the No. 4 receiver spot in Seattle. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Patrick Batteaux, Chargers

6-0 195 Age: 24 2nd year
Works hard but doesn't have exceptional skills, and his inability to contribute on special teams may hurt his chances to succeed with the Chargers. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Darrin Chiaverini, Falcons

6-2 210 Age: 24 3rd year
Has a solid combination of size and speed but has

had health and consistency problems. Has a chance to be Falcons' No. 3 receiver. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Dameane Douglas, Eagles

6-0 195 Age: 26 4th year
One of the best special teams players on the team, Douglas might play some in the No. 5 receiver slot but must do a better job of creating separation on routes. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Arnold Jackson, Cardinals

5-8 163 Age: 25 2nd year
Established himself as a capable punt returner but isn't big enough to have an impact as a receiver. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Reggie Jones, Chiefs

6-0 195 Age: 31 5th year
Steady and reliable veteran backup, but with little upside and little to offer this team. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Desmond Kitchens, Colts

5-9 180 Age: 24 1st year
Inexperienced, ineffective blocker who lacks the bulk to be a factor in the running game. Will contribute on special teams and in multiple receiver sets. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Eric Metcalf, free agent

5-10 190 Age: 34 11th year
Aging receiver who still has quickness and elusiveness to be an effective return man. Lacks size, overall speed and route-running skills to be an effective receiver. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Gari Scott, Eagles

6-0 191 Age: 24 3rd year
A polished route runner who has a good feel for coverage. Lack of speed and serious durability concerns make him a No. 4 receiver at best. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Torrance Small, free agent

6-3 220 Age: 32 9th year
Veteran who has excellent size. Still an effective target in the red zone. Played in just three games last year and clearly has lost a step. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Derrius Thompson, Redskins

6-2 215 Age: 25 3rd year
Big, physical possession receiver who lacks the quickness and initial burst to be effective in the Redskins' offense. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. James Williams, Seahawks

5-10 188 Age: 24 3rd year
Does not have the natural tools to become much more than a backup. If he can't stay healthy and doesn't begin to show signs of improvement, he will be passed over quickly. **GRADE: 5.7**

T142. Cedrick Wilson, 49ers

5-10 179 Age: 23 2nd year
Inexperienced and extremely undersized second-year situational slot receiver. Shows good footwork, quickness and speed. **GRADE: 5.7**

T155. Kenyon Hambrick, Ravens

6-0 188 Age: 24 1st year
Has good hands but struggles to make catches away from his body. Lacks great speed. A complementary player who will get time in nickel and dime sets. **GRADE: 5.6**

T155. Curtis Jackson, Chiefs

5-10 194 Age: 28 2nd year
Developmental player who has not progressed and has trouble staying healthy. **GRADE: 5.6**

T155. Quentin McCord, Falcons

5-10 188 Age: 24 2nd year
An average receiver with good speed. Needs to

BERNIE NUNEZ FOR TSN



improve significantly as a return specialist to stick in the NFL. **GRADE: 5.6**

T155. Ahmad Merritt, Bears

5-10 193 Age: 25 2nd year
Could see time as the team's fifth receiver but lacks ideal speed and burst. More of a short-to-intermediate receiver. **GRADE: 5.6**

T155. Onome Ojo, Saints

6-4 205 Age: 25 2nd year
Has some upside because of his size and hands. Could develop into a No. 3 or 4 possession receiver, but must improve quickness and become a much better route-runner. **GRADE: 5.6**

T160. Kwame Cavil, Browns

6-2 203 Age: 23 2nd year
A possession receiver with excellent size. Shows good concentration but is limited in the vertical passing game. A No. 5-type wideout. **GRADE: 5.5**

T160. Richmond Flowers, Cowboys

6-0 205 Age: 24 1st year
A possession receiver who has excellent size, hands and quickness but lacks the speed to be a big factor in the vertical passing game. **GRADE: 5.5**

T160. Bryan Gilmore, Cardinals

6-0 194 Age: 24 2nd year
Has good speed and the ability to make plays in the vertical passing game. Lacks technique running routes. **GRADE: 5.5**

T160. Scott McCready, Patriots

6-1 205 Age: 25 1st year
Has decent size and strength and knows how to run routes. Will catch the ball away from his body and can make the clutch catch. Is consistent, though not very exciting. **GRADE: 5.5**

164. Avion Black, Texans

5-11 185 Age: 25 3rd year
Should fit in as the No. 4 or No. 5 receiver in Houston and likely will be used on the perimeter mostly on fade and go routes. Hits his top gear in a hurry and can really stretch a defense. **GRADE: 5.4**

T165. Thabiti Davis, Giants

6-2 205 Age: 27 3rd year
Possession receiver who has excellent size. Lacks speed and athletic ability and always will be fighting for a roster spot in the NFL. **GRADE: 5.3**

T165. Karl Hankton, Panthers

6-2 202 Age: 32 4th year
A 32-year old journeyman who knows his role on special teams well and does a really great job of covering kicks. **GRADE: 5.3**

T165. Trevor Insley, Texans

6-0 190 Age: 24 3rd year
A No. 4 or No. 5 receiver who will provide solid dependable production without a lot of flash. Is much quicker than he is fast. **GRADE: 5.3**

168. Tony Simmons, Texans

6-1 212 Age: 27 5th year
Is a vertical threat, can go deep and can make the big catch on the fade route. Does not go over the middle and cannot catch the ball in a crowd or consistently lay out. **GRADE: 4.9**

169. Fabien Bowens, Seahawks

5-11 189 Age: 30 8th year
Has found a nice niche as the Seahawks' fifth receiver and emergency quarterback, but biggest worth is on special teams, where he is outstanding as a gunner on cover teams. Rarely plays as a receiver. **GRADE: 4.6**

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Jabar Gaffney, Texans

6-1 193 Florida, 2nd round
Strengths: Has a great feel for the passing game, runs excellent routes and has outstanding hands. Can snatch the ball on the run. Has a lot of success on deep routes and will make a lot big plays. Has outstanding change of direction. Can find the soft spot in zones and exploit man-to-man coverage.

Weaknesses: Does not have great deep speed. Does not contribute well as a blocker.

Bottom line: Could start the season as the No. 3 receiver out of the slot where he should be an excellent mismatch against No. 3 corners. Should become a favorite target of David Carr. **GRADE: 9.6**

2. Antonio Bryant, Cowboys

6-1 188 Pittsburgh, 2nd round
Strengths: Catches the ball in stride and is tough to bring down after the catch. Shows a second gear in open field and can change directions. Uses hands and long arms to create separation. Has deceptive speed.

Weaknesses: Does not show top effort on every play. Needs to work harder on blocking.

Bottom line: Has all the natural skills to become a dominant NFL receiver but must work on the mental aspects of the game and be more disciplined. **GRADE: 9.3**

3. Donte' Stallworth, Saints

6-0 197 Tennessee, 1st round
Strengths: Has good size. Able to get open

deep. Has great leaping ability. Can catch passes away from his body. Strong enough to control the point of attack. Is smooth, under control and explosive.

Weaknesses: Doesn't show great technique. Tends not to sustain blocks. Not explosive off the line. Is inconsistent and loses focus.

Bottom line: Fits the mold for a No. 1 receiver but needs time to adjust. Has the tools to be the playmaker opposite Joe Horn the Saints have been seeking for two years. **GRADE: 9.2**

4. Josh Reed, Bills

5-10 203 LSU, 2nd round
Strengths: Shows excellent concentration. Is thick, strong and tough. Is not afraid to go over the middle. Does an outstanding job of finding soft spots in zone coverage and runs excellent routes. Explodes in and out of cuts. **Weaknesses:** Lacks ideal size and can't take many big hits. Lacks the top speed needed to outrun defenders after the catch.

Bottom line: Undersized slot receiver should develop into a solid No. 2 someday. Will be No. 3 this season, giving the Bills a dangerous three-receiver set. **GRADE: 9.1**

5. Ashley Lelie, Broncos

6-3 200 Hawaii, 1st round
Strengths: Displays good burst in and out of cuts. Shows great concentration when the ball is in the air and does a good job of catching it with his hands. Shows good vision and patience as a runner. Is a very good athlete. Is capable of making the first defender miss in the open field. Works hard to sustain his blocks.

Weaknesses: Will struggle if pressed at the line of scrimmage. Is not a strong runner. Needs to do a better job of getting upfield after he secures the ball. Is far too easy to tackle.

Bottom line: Has the size, quickness and hands to beat the opposing team's No. 3 cornerback, but it will be awhile before he assumes the mantle of No. 1 receiver in Denver. Should be dangerous in the team's three-receiver sets. **GRADE: 9.0**

6. Reche Caldwell, Chargers

5-11 194 Florida, 2nd round
Strengths: Has outstanding hands and excellent route-running skills. Shows good body control. Uses pass-rush moves to avoid defensive backs at the line of scrimmage. Is an impressive technician with good quickness.

Weaknesses: Does not have great speed or overly exciting athletic ability. Is not a real deep threat and will not make a lot of big plays.

Bottom line: Is as ready-made for the NFL as a receiver can be. The Chargers hope he will become a force in the short to intermediate passing game. **GRADE: 8.7**

7. Marquise Walker, Buccaneers

6-2 219 Michigan, 3rd round
Strengths: Has strong hands and comes up

with a lot of jump balls. Catches the ball in traffic and goes over the middle. Has deceptive speed. Works hard and plays aggressively. **Weaknesses:** Not a burner. Doesn't have elusive moves. Hands are inconsistent; drops too many easy passes.

Bottom line: The team got a great value with its first pick of the 2002 draft. Eventually, he will be a starter. **GRADE: 8.6**

8. Javon Walker, Packers

6-3 210 Florida State, 1st round
Strengths: A big target who has good strength. Shows the ability to catch fade routes. Uses size well, goes over the middle and catches the ball in traffic.

Weaknesses: A former junior college transfer who has minimal experience. Does not have blazing speed or great initial quickness.

Bottom line: Has excellent size and is a playmaker. Likely will be the No. 3 receiver immediately and could take over as No. 2 with time and experience. **GRADE: 8.4**

9. Andre Davis, Browns

6-1 194 Virginia Tech, 2nd round
Strengths: Has good size and track-star speed. Can catch the ball on the run. Has outstanding leaping ability. Is a willing blocker. Has explosiveness and shows the ability to create separation.

Weaknesses: Needs to be more consistent. Doesn't always run the correct route, doesn't always get his head turned around and tends to bobble and drop too many passes. Lacks initial quickness off the line. Needs to be more durable.

Bottom line: An nice weapon in the Browns' arsenal, either as a receiver or a returner. **GRADE: 8.2**

10. Kahlil Hill, Falcons

6-2 200 Iowa, 6th round
Has excellent size, good strength and playmaking ability. Has a lot of mental lapses. Is sloppy at times and runs inconsistent routes. Tends to disappear in games and drop catchable passes. Has the skills to be a solid starter eventually. **GRADE: 7.8**

11. Ron Johnson, Ravens

6-2 225 Minnesota, 4th round
Has great size and strength but lacks great speed, quickness or elusiveness. Might find man-to-man matchups too much to handle. Could play his way into time as the No. 3 or No. 4 receiver. Son of Ron Johnson, former NFL defensive back. **GRADE: 7.3**

12. Cliff Russell, Redskins

5-11 185 Utah, 3rd round
Is explosive, shows excellent burst off the line and has great speed. Shows good leaping ability and is elusive after the catch. Is inconsistent and raw. Has a history of injuries. Needs at least half a season to learn coach Steve Spurrier's system and to develop technique. Has the explosiveness to push for the No. 4, or possibly No. 3, slot. **GRADE: 7.2**

13. Daryl Jones, Giants

5-9 175 Miami (Fla.), 7th round
Was behind many talented players at the University of Miami. Explosive runner after the catch. Catches the ball away from the body. Runs solid routes.

Biggest problems are lack of durability and experience. Lacks ideal leaping ability and does not make a lot of plays on balls in the air. **GRADE: 7.1**

14. Brian Poli-Dixon, Chargers

6-5 212 UCLA, undrafted free agent
A player to keep an eye on. Wasn't drafted because of durability concerns and lack of speed, but he has size and strength, two things the Chargers' receiving corps lacks. Won't play a big role early but has potential to develop into an excellent possession receiver and significant contributor. **GRADE: 6.7**

15. Freddie Milons, Eagles

5-11 190 Alabama, 5th round
Playmaker with excellent footwork and change-of-direction ability. Could contribute in the No. 3 or No. 4 receiver role and should have an impact immediately in the return game. Lacks ideal speed, size and strength. **GRADE: 6.6**

16. Antwaan Randle El, Steelers

5-10 184 Indiana, 2nd round
Outstanding athlete with rare quickness and speed, but must make conversion from quarterback to wide receiver on NFL level and learn to deal with press coverage. Not a vertical threat because of lack of deep speed and height. Has marginal size. **GRADE: 6.3**

17. Tim Carter, Giants

5-11 190 Auburn, 2nd round
Split time between football and track in college but has great speed and shows flashes of big-play ability. Will get chance to win the No. 3 receiver job. **GRADE: 6.2**

18. Eric Crouch, Rams

6-0 205 Nebraska, 3rd round
Former college quarterback who has the athletic ability to make the transition to receiver in time. **GRADE: 5.8**

19. Deion Branch, Patriots

5-9, 191 Louisville, 2nd round
Will not be a No. 1 or 2 receiver on the edges but seems a perfect fit for No. 3, or slot, position in New England offense. Should be able to use his quickness, route-running ability and competitiveness to be a very effective. **GRADE: 5.6**

20. Lee Mays, Steelers

6-2 192 UTEP, 6th round
Height and pass catching skills give him a chance to be developmental player with an upside. Has track star speed which must be transferred to football field. **GRADE: 5.5**

21. Terry Charles, Chargers

6-3 207 Portland State, 5th round
A good athlete with outstanding size and good speed. Is effective on fade routes and runs well after the catch. Developmental receiver is more likely to outjump defensive backs than manhandle them. **GRADE: 5.0**

22. Herb Haygood, Broncos

5-11 193 Michigan State, 5th round
Could make an impact on kickoff returns based on the big-play ability he flashed in that role in college, but until he improves his technique and feel for the passing game, is strictly a depth player as a wide receiver. **GRADE: 4.9**

23. Javin Hunter, Ravens

5-11 190 Notre Dame, 6th round
Has adequate size, good speed and hands. A hard worker who could develop into a competitive back-up. **GRADE: 4.8**

24. Jason McAddley, Cardinals

6-1 203 Alabama, 5th round
Has excellent size and good speed but is a project who needs time. **GRADE: 4.7**

25. David Givens, Patriots

6-0 217 Notre Dame, 7th round
A physical player who has great versatility. Outstanding athlete, but could be hard-pressed to find niche in Patriots' receiving corps this year. **GRADE: 4.6**

26. Rodney Wright, Bills

5-9 180 Fresno State, 7th round
Undersized but explosive. Needs time to develop recognition skills and route running. **GRADE: 4.4**

27. Donnie O'Neal, 49ers

6-2 188 Arizona State, undrafted free agent
Vertical receiver from Arizona State has good height and deceptive speed. But he isn't explosive or polished. **GRADE: 4.1**

T28. Darrell Hill, Titans

6-3 197 Northern Illinois, 7th round
A developmental player who must improve his overall feel for the passing game but has outstanding athletic ability. Must make an impact on special teams. **GRADE: 4.0**

T28. Aaron Lockett, Buccaneers

5-7 155 Kansas State, 7th round
An explosive athlete who makes more plays as a return specialist than as a receiver. **GRADE: 4.0**

T28. Kendall Newson, Jaguars

6-1 195 Middle Tennessee, 7th round
Tall, lanky prospect who is coming off a great senior season. Seems to have a knack for making plays. **GRADE: 4.0**

T28. Jake Schifino, Titans

6-1 200 Akron, 5th round
Could develop into an effective possession receiver. Shows the ability to get downfield occasionally. Will make his biggest contribution on special teams. **GRADE: 4.0**

T28. Sam Simmons, Dolphins

5-9 200 Northwestern, 5th round
Outstanding athlete who has quick feet. Lacks ideal speed but has the potential to develop into a quality slot receiver and return man. **GRADE: 4.0**

T33. Michael Coleman, Falcons

5-11 190 Widener, 7th round
Was a track star who is a developmental project as a football player. Will need time to translate natural speed and athleticism into becoming a contributing receiver. **GRADE: 3.0**

T33. Jamin Elliott, Bears

6-0 181 Delaware, 6th round
Has the athleticism and speed to compete, but there are concerns about his size and ability to get off the line against better competition. It's a long way from the Atlantic 10 to the NFL. **GRADE: 3.0**

T33. Nate Jackson, 49ers

6-3 217 Menlo (Calif.), undrafted free agent
Has size and hands to become a productive possession receiver but will need time to develop and adjust to the speed of the NFL. **GRADE: 3.0**

T33. DeVeren Johnson, Cowboys

6-4 211 Sacred Heart, 6th round
A developmental player who is a possession receiver with good size but lacks ideal speed. **GRADE: 3.0**

TIGHT ENDS

VETERANS

1. Tony Gonzalez, Chiefs

6-4 249

Age: 26 6th year

Strengths: Great overall athlete and the most gifted tight end in the league. Good instincts and an excellent overall feel for the passing game. Knows how to get open and makes adjustments while running routes. Has outstanding hands, is excellent at making the tough catch on the high ball and rarely drops a catchable ball. An excellent open-field runner who breaks a lot of tackles after the catch. Tough to bring down because of quickness and athletic ability. Not easily jammed at the line of scrimmage because of an explosive first step.

Weaknesses: Not a great or physical blocker. Needs to develop better pass protection skills even though he rarely stays in on pass plays. Coming back late-season knee injury. **Bottom line:** Versatile athlete and a much-feared force as a receiver in the Chiefs' passing game. The team will get the ball to him as often as possible. **GRADE: 9.6**

GRADE: 9.6

2. Shannon Sharpe, Broncos

6-2 230

Age: 34 13th year

Strengths: Knows how to find the soft spot in zone coverage. Does a good job getting open quickly when he recognizes the blitz. Is versatile enough to line up all over the field. Has an outstanding combination of size and speed. Is very elusive after the catch.

Weaknesses: Wasn't a dominant blocker in his younger days and certainly isn't now. Lacks the size to get movement in the running game. Needs to play with good leverage. Natural skills are on the decline.

Bottom line: Returns to former role as the Broncos' starting tight end after a two-year hiatus in Baltimore. Should be an excellent mentor to Denver's younger tight ends.

GRADE: 9.2

3. Marcus Pollard, Colts

6-3 248

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has an outstanding feel for zone coverage. Is versatile and can line up anywhere. Has good hands and great footwork. Can make the tough catch in traffic. Is an effective red-zone target.

Weaknesses: Lacks the lower body strength to be an effective blocker in the running game. At times takes plays off when he is not involved.



PAUL NISELY FOR TSN

1 Tony Gonzalez

JOB REQUIREMENTS

	Ht.	Wt.	40
NFL optimum	6-6	250	4.6
NFL minimum	6-2	235	5.0

The ideal tight end has the size and strength to open holes in the running game and the hands and speed to be a reliable receiving threat. Because those players are rare, most teams carry receiving tight ends and blocking tight ends. Receivers have the speed to create mismatches against linebackers and the size and leaping ability to beat defensive backs down the field. Blocking tight ends use their size, strength and technique to good effect.

Bottom line: Emerged as one of the best receiving tight ends in the game last season. Offensive coordinator Tom Moore will continue to create mismatches for Pollard, who could have an even more productive season.

GRADE: 8.9

4. Freddie Jones, Cardinals

6-5 270

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent size, great strength and the quickness needed to get off the line. Can catch the ball away from his frame and over his head. Has quick feet and gets in great position. Has the size to overwhelm at the point of attack. Can block moving targets

in open space.

Weaknesses: Tends to disappear in games and doesn't have great stamina. Doesn't always play to full potential.

Bottom line: Free-agent addition is an upgrade for the Cardinals at tight end. An accomplished receiver and good enough run blocker to help boost the offense.

GRADE: 8.3

T5. Chad Lewis, Eagles

6-6 252

Age: 30 5th year

Strengths: Has the ability to read coverages and get open. Has outstanding hands and displays great concentration and the ability to make tough catches in traffic. Plays with balance and shows very good body control. Has the ability to make catches without breaking stride and to lower his shoulder and pick up yards after contact.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal strength and is not physical. Does not have great change-of-direction ability and lacks the straight-line speed to consistently stretch the field. Has trouble with bigger linemen at the point of attack. Has trouble sealing the edge and looks lost at times in the running game.

Bottom line: Experienced and reliable receiver who knows how to get open but is a liability as a blocker.

GRADE: 8.2

T5. Frank Wycheck, Titans

6-3 250

Age: 30 10th year

Strengths: Is versatile and shows the ability to line up all over the field. Creates matchup problems for linebackers because of his speed and size. Does a great job of finding the soft spot in coverage and shows the ability to get open quickly. Is an excellent red zone target. Will make the tough catch in traffic.

Weaknesses: Is not a big play threat. Will not make the defender miss in the open field. Has trouble sustaining blocks and does not get good initial pop. Is starting to age and may have lost a step.

Bottom line: His route running and reliable hands still make him one of the best receiving tight ends in the game.

GRADE: 8.2

7. Ken Dilger, Buccaneers

6-5 255

Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Has quickness and burst off the line. Outstanding hands. Can catch the ball away from his body, or over the shoulder or on the run. Gets upfield nicely after the catch. Picks up tough yards after contact.

Weaknesses: Coming off knee surgery. No

longer a vertical threat. Poor blocker—lacks size and power at the point of attack. Doesn't provide much push in the run game.

Bottom line: One of the more reliable receiving tight ends who brings much-needed consistency to the Bucs' passing attack in the middle of the field.

GRADE: 7.8

8. Wesley Walls, Panthers

6-5 250

Age: 36 14th year

Strengths: A dangerous and consistent threat. Has good initial quicks and comes off the line with good burst. Is an intelligent, crafty route runner. Has outstanding hands.

Weaknesses: Is not much of a blocker. Lacks ideal size and strength in the run game. When isolated in a matchup against a defensive end or outside linebacker is over-matched. Is aging fast.

Bottom line: When healthy, was the team's most reliable threat in the passing game. Still has the speed and athleticism to stretch the defense and could have another 40-plus reception season.

GRADE: 7.7

T9. Bubba Franks, Packers

6-6 260

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Does good a job of using his hands to release and an excellent job of slipping by linebackers. Has soft hands, looks the ball in and can catch in traffic. Has ability to block moving targets.

Weaknesses: Doesn't show good pop at the point of attack and is not a physical in-line blocker. Must improve his base and ability to anchor.

Bottom line: A tremendous red zone target. Must improve consistency and technique as a blocker but has the combination of size, speed and reliable hands possibly to become a perennial Pro Bowl player.

GRADE: 7.6

T9. David Sloan, Saints

6-6 260

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Is an excellent receiver and solid blocker. Has good speed. Able to make the tough catch in traffic. A dependable target.

Weaknesses: Must stay healthy and challenge the secondary.

Bottom line: Should be a big factor in the passing game and divert attention from the outside receivers. Could have a career year.

GRADE: 7.6

T11. Stephen Alexander, Chargers

6-4 246

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has excellent speed, runs great routes and has outstanding hands. Has excellent body control and can catch the high ball in a crowd. Runs well for a tight end, with fluid movements.

Weaknesses: Durability is questionable; he missed half of last season with an ankle injury. Is a poor blocker who lacks both bulk and power.

Bottom line: If healthy, he'll catch a lot of passes over the middle and create opportunities for the Chargers' wide receivers on the perimeter.

GRADE: 7.5

T11. Mark Bruener, Steelers

6-4 261

Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Great size and strength and is a physical run blocker. Plays with strong base and is a technically sound blocker. Has explosive first step; takes good angles and uses hands well. Can dominate in run game by rolling hips on contact, playing with leverage and finishing block. Will use size to outmuscle and shield defenders as pass catcher in short-area passing game.

Weaknesses: Missed time in 2001 because of rotator cuff injury. A straight-line player who doesn't have great speed or route running ability. Lacks explosiveness and unable to separate.

Bottom line: If healthy, he's the perfect blocking tight end for Steelers and their right-side run game. Production in passing game is limited.

GRADE: 7.5

13. Reggie Kelly, Falcons

6-3 255

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good size and is a physical blocker. Takes solid angles to his blocks and will work to sustain them. Has a great work ethic. Improved as a receiver in the short area.

Weaknesses: Lacks crispness as a route runner. Struggles to catch on the run and really struggles to catch over his head.

Bottom line: In time, he likely will be surpassed by Alge Crumpler as the Falcons' top tight end. The two complement each other well and could make for one of the better tight-end combos in the NFL.

GRADE: 7.4

T14. Anthony Becht, Jets

6-5 272

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Plays with good leverage and uses good technique as a blocker. Has outstanding

ON THE RISE: Marcus Pollard, Colts

Rarely is a 30-year-old considered on the rise, but the big, athletic and fast Pollard is after a breakout year in 2001 and the departure of Ken Dilger.

ON THE DECLINE: Jay Riemersma, Bills

He had a career-high 590 yards in 2001 but dropped too many catchable passes. And the team's signing of veteran Dave Moore wasn't a vote of confidence.

SLEEPER: Todd Heap, Ravens

As a rookie in 2001, he struggled at times and was hindered by injuries. But with Shannon Sharpe gone, Heap will have more opportunities to produce this season.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Freddie Jones, Cardinals

He had been one of the league's most underrated receivers before virtually disappearing in San Diego's schemes last season. That should change in 2002.

BEST BLOCKER: Mark Bruener, Steelers

Bruener has good size and strength, but it's his technique that stands out. Expect him to bounce back from an injury-shortened 2001 with a strong 2002.

BEST DEEP THREAT: Tony Gonzalez, Chiefs

His size (6-4, 249) causes matchup problems, and his speed gets him past linebackers. That's in addition to his ability to make the tough catch.

BEST IN RED ZONE: Bubba Franks, Packers

His excellent size, ability to shield the defender from the ball and nine touchdown catches last season make him the best red-zone threat in the league.

MOST ATHLETIC: Tony Gonzalez, Chiefs

His ability to adjust to the poorly thrown ball and his body control are unparalleled at tight end and the fact he could make an NBA team speaks volumes.

base and lower-body strength to get movement in the running game. Shows good work ethic. Has excellent blitz-recognition skills and shows the ability to anchor against the bull rush.

Weaknesses: Not a big-play threat and lacks explosiveness and change of direction skills. Still inconsistent; loses focus and drops balls.
Bottom line: Has the size and route-running skills to be an effective target off play action and should have another productive season as the starter.

GRADE: 7.3

T14. Alge Crumpler, Falcons

6-2 262 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is quick and athletic. Catches most balls thrown in his area. Shows good concentration. Is tough to bring down after the catch. Is big and has a powerful running style. Blocks moving targets and works to get in position.

Weaknesses: Must increase overall strength. Doesn't have great size and doesn't overpower anyone. Needs to improve ability to find soft spots in zones.

Bottom line: Needs experience, but has the strength, speed and physical skills to become a solid, full-time starter and a threat in the passing game.

GRADE: 7.3

T14. Erron Kinney, Titans

6-5 280 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent overall athletic ability and footwork. Is an excellent red zone target. Shows the ability to catch the ball in traffic. Has a very strong base and gets good pop at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve on his instincts and awareness. Is inconsistent. Not a good blocker. Does not play with a mean streak.

Bottom line: Continues to improve and has outstanding potential. Could develop into one of the better all-around tight ends in the league.

GRADE: 7.3

T14. Jay Riemersma, Bills

6-5 252 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has good hands and catches the ball away from his body. Is extremely skilled and experienced as a route runner. Shows tremendous athletic ability. Does a good job turning upfield quickly and is fairly elusive after the catch.

Weaknesses: Doesn't create push or show enough pop at the point of attack as a blocker. Uncharacteristically dropped a lot of catchable passes last season.

Bottom line: One of the more athletic tight ends in the NFL. Must rebound from an inconsistent season but should benefit from the addition of Drew Bledsoe at quarterback.

GRADE: 7.3

T18. Kyle Brady, Jaguars

6-6 277 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Excellent blocker in the trenches. Is physical. Does a nice job picking up the blitz. Is good at finding seams in the defense and running after catch.

Weaknesses: Does not have much success

against physical press coverage. Lacks the quickness to avoid jams at the line. Doesn't catch enough passes away from his body.

Bottom line: Big, physical blocker with good power who can be used in the short to intermediate passing game.

GRADE: 7.2

T18. Ernie Conwell, Rams

6-2 265 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: A fluid athlete who has good hands. Does a nice job of releasing off the line. Has good strength as a receiver. Powerful as a runner and will deliver a blow. Knows the soft spots in zone coverages and is a sound route runner. Takes good angles and changes direction well as a blocker.

Weaknesses: Not very elusive in the open field. Lacks ideal height and is not overwhelming at the point of attack. Has trouble with run-stuffing ends.

Bottom line: Is versatile and experienced. A reliable receiver and an effective blocker when put in motion, which is often in this scheme.

GRADE: 7.2

T18. Dave Moore, Bills

6-2 250 Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Fires off the ball, plays with leverage, takes good angles and plays under control as a blocker. Feet are sound. Has adequate quickness. Does a good job of getting open in the short to intermediate zone.

Weaknesses: Does not have elite speed and rarely stretches the defense vertically. Lacks the burst as a receiver to gain separation.

Bottom line: Because Jay Riemersma will attract attention downfield, Moore should be able to exploit underneath routes.

GRADE: 7.2

T21. Dwayne Carswell, Broncos

6-3 260 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has good size. Shows the ability to get movement in the running game. Plays with a good base. Does a good job of getting into position as a blocker. Has good athletic ability. Can find the soft spot in zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Needs to be more consistent and play hard every play. Will struggle to generate separation. Is not a great route runner. Is not going to outrun many defenders in the open field.

Bottom line: Can be used as a blocker on short-yardage running plays or as a receiver in the red zone off play action.

GRADE: 7.1

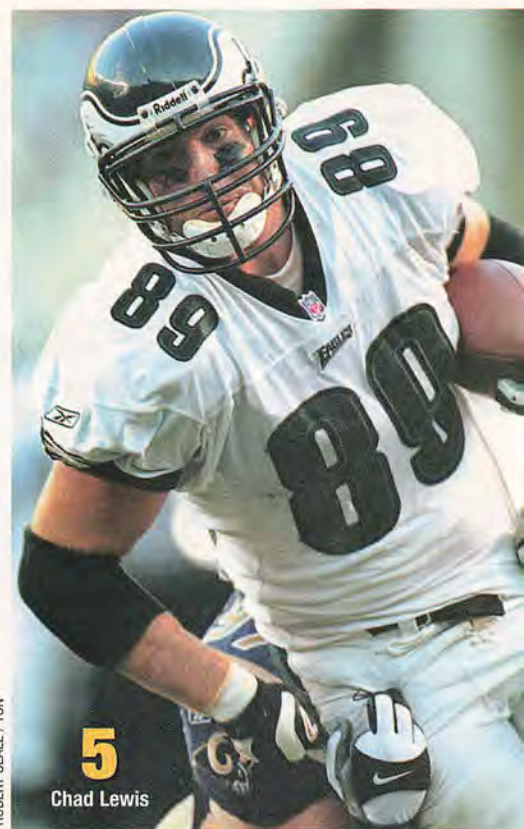
T21. Rickey Dudley, Browns

6-6 255 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Has an outstanding combination of size and speed. Creates matchup problems when attacking the seam. Will get yards after initial contact. Runs with good power. Is extremely productive in the red zone. Has good ball skills.

Weaknesses: Tends to take plays off and drop too many catchable passes. Can be jammed at the line when teams put a linebacker over top of him. Needs time to build speed. Gets pushed around on running plays.

Bottom line: With improved consistency, he



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

could become a valuable weapon for Tim Couch.

GRADE: 7.1

T23. Christian Fauria, Patriots

6-4 245 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent hands and holds on to the ball on contact. Gets good position to fight and finish the block. Is rarely beaten by quickness. Is good at finding the soft spot in a defense.

Weaknesses: Lacks the bulk to dominate at the point of attack. Is not really a vertical deep threat. Has problems in man-to-man coverage and can be taken out of the play by a physical defender. Durability is a question.

Bottom line: Will be the team's primary blocking tight end on running plays.

GRADE: 7.0

T23. Todd Heap, Ravens

6-5 252 Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Is athletic. Often excels in space. Runs excellent routes and uses good feet and quickness to avoid or push off defenders. Has excellent deep speed. Can catch the vertical ball. Has excellent focus.

Weaknesses: Does not contribute as a blocker. Is not overly aggressive. Must add strength. Lacks starting experience.

Bottom line: Has a great attitude, maturity level and approach that should serve him well. Soon could become the second-most talented and productive tight end in the NFL behind Tony Gonzalez.

GRADE: 7.0

T23. Eric Johnson, 49ers

6-3 256 Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Has soft hands and shows great

concentration when the ball is in the air. Does a nice job of using body to shield defender from the ball. Gets a clean release and will find the soft spot in zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Does not have the speed to stretch the seam consistently. Needs to run with more power and has not shown the ability to lower his shoulder and gain yards after contact. Lacks base and pop as an in-line blocker.

Bottom line: A receiving tight end who is consistent but not explosive. Better suited to be a backup because of his lack of strength and power as a blocker. **GRADE: 7.0**

T23. Jim Kleinsasser, Vikings

6-3 274 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Versatility. Can line up in the backfield or at tight end. Gets good pop at point of attack as a blocker and gets movement in the running game. Has soft hands and deceptive speed as a receiver. An effective pass blocker.

Weaknesses: Struggles to hit the moving target at the second level and lacks ideal change of direction skills. Does not explode out of stance. Not a threat after the catch and cannot make the defender miss.

Bottom line: No. 2 tight end. Has the combination of size, speed and strength to be a dominant blocker. **GRADE: 7.0**

T23. Aaron Shea, Browns

6-3 244 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Versatile enough to be lined up almost anywhere on the field. Shows good burst in and out of cuts. Has good hands, excellent balance and body control. Is willing to go over the middle and make the play. Consistently gets a clean release off the line of scrimmage.

Weaknesses: Lacks the strength to hold up at the point of attack and gets little push as a run blocker. Is not a threat as a runner. Needs to improve blocking technique.

Bottom line: Will need to become a better blocker to maintain role in Browns' offense. **GRADE: 7.0**

T23. Roland Williams, Raiders

6-5 265 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: A dependable blocker and receiver. Excellent overall size and athletic ability. Can play with leverage at the point of attack against edge rushers and as a blocker in the run game.

Weaknesses: Does not overpower as a blocker at point of attack. Runs routes adequately with less than impressive quickness and explosiveness. Not a vertical threat or a matchup problem for defenses.

Bottom line: Nothing flashy, just a tight end who is consistent and produces. **GRADE: 7.0**

T29. Byron Chamberlain, Vikings

6-1 264 Age: 30 6th year

Strengths: Has great hands and is a threat down the middle. Has rare speed for his size. A good athlete who will adjust route to the blitz. Can locate the soft spot in zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks power. Not an aggressive blocker. Gets knocked back by bigger and more physical defensive ends. Effort is inconsistent.

Bottom line: Coming off the most productive season in career. Will play big role in Vikings' offense. **GRADE: 6.9**

T29. Cam Cleeland, Patriots

6-4 272 Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Is an excellent pass catcher—can reach the high balls and adjust for the low ones. Will find the soft spots in zones. Is an adequate blocker who knows how to position himself.

Weaknesses: Durability is a major question; Achilles' injuries and a variety of lower-body problems forced him to miss 28 games over the last three seasons.

Bottom line: Could be a nice addition for the Patriots—provided he has not lost any of his speed or athleticism. **GRADE: 6.9**

T29. Alonzo Mayes, Dolphins

6-4 265 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has good size, athletic ability and speed. Does a good job getting upfield quickly and is fairly elusive in the open field. Is an outstanding red-zone target.

Weaknesses: Has had problems staying healthy. Must keep weight down and improve work ethic. Is inconsistent and appears to lose focus at times. Does not run sharp routes.

Bottom line: Has the tools to be a productive starter but must show greater dedication. A classic example of a player not translating potential to production. **GRADE: 6.9**

T32. Desmond Clark, Broncos

6-3 255 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Will catch the ball away from his frame, above his head or on the run. Does a good job of getting upfield after the catch. Is explosive and has excellent short-area burst.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve his blocking skills and work harder at it. Lacks the lower body strength to get movement in the running game. Needs to play with better leverage.

Bottom line: Another big target in the Broncos' passing game; should benefit from playing behind and learning from Shannon Sharpe. **GRADE: 6.8**

T32. Zeron Flemister, Redskins

6-4 249 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has good height, speed and ability. Does a good job looking the ball in and catching it away from his body. Is a reliable target.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal bulk and lower-body strength. Occasionally struggles to get a clean release. Has little experience.

Bottom line: Undersized receiving tight end who is a liability as an in-line blocker. His height, speed and ability are perfect for the Redskins' pass-heavy scheme. **GRADE: 6.8**

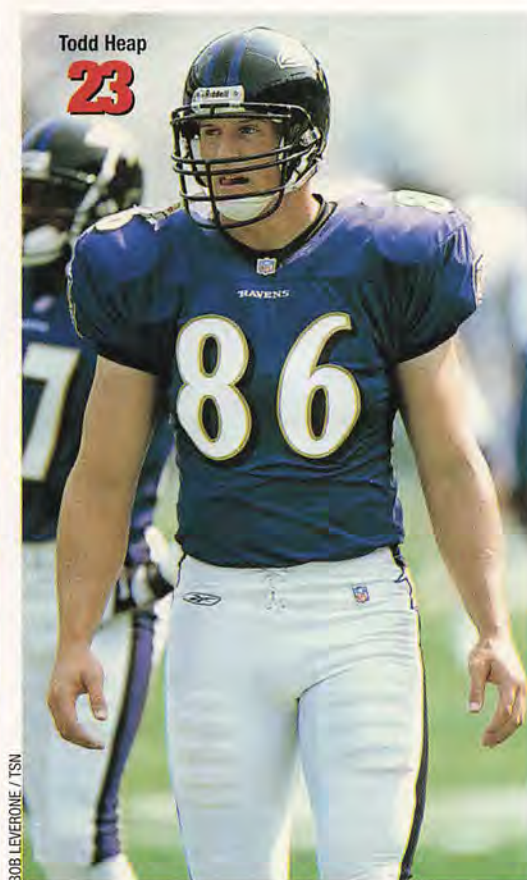
T32. Hunter Goodwin, Vikings

6-5 270 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Takes excellent angles to blocks.

Todd Heap

23



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

Has good size and strength. Shows the ability to get movement in the running game. Has soft hands.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal speed and does not show the ability to generate separation from the defender. Does not have great athletic ability and is not a threat after the catch.

Bottom line: No. 3 tight end who plays more like a tackle and will make biggest impact on short-yardage situations as a blocker. **GRADE: 6.8**

T32. Jeff Thomason, Eagles

6-5 255 Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Quick out of his stance. Shows good burst in and out of cuts and does a nice job of looking the ball in. A patient route runner who knows how to find the soft spots in zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks the speed to consistently stretch the seam. Does not have good lower-body strength and is a liability as an in-line blocker.

Bottom line: Quality backup who excels in the red zone but likely would struggle if forced to start. **GRADE: 6.8**

T32. Jerame Tuman, Steelers

6-4 270 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: An athletic pass-catching tight end. Has good feet and overall balance and catches ball naturally. A try-hard guy who positions himself well and utilizes sound techniques as blocker. Has decent quickness off ball and is dependable in short to

intermediate passing game.

Weaknesses: Not a big, physical player. Lacks power, pop and explosiveness at line of scrimmage. Not fast enough to be deep threat in passing game.

Bottom line: Gets by as finesse-type blocker and dependable pass catcher in short area, but does not excel in any area. Doesn't have much upside but is a capable backup.

GRADE: 6.8

T32. Jed Weaver, Dolphins

6-4 262 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has exceptional hands and can make the tough catch in traffic. Plays with a tremendous motor. Polished route runner who consistently finds ways to get open. Has good athleticism and agility. Adequate speed.

Weaknesses: Lacks premier size and strength as a blocker; likely never will be dominant in this area. Is inconsistent as a receiver; must do a better job securing the ball after the catch.

Bottom line: Can give the Dolphins enough production to open the outside of the field for their more explosive receivers.

GRADE: 6.8

T38. Jeremy Brigham, Raiders

6-6 250 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Smooth and reliable pass-catching skills; looks the ball in and catches it away from the body. A big target. Versatile and able to lineup at different positions, causing matchup problems for defenses.

Weaknesses: Not a vertical threat in passing game. Lacks explosion and lower-body strength. Does not play a physical style at line of scrimmage. Doesn't play through nagging injuries.

Bottom line: If blocking skills continue to improve, he will be a decent backup.

GRADE: 6.7

T38. Steve Heiden, Chargers

6-5 270 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Runs well and has excellent athletic ability. Shows burst and acceleration in his routes and has little wasted motion. Has dependable hands and maintains a good base. Shows good balance as a run blocker.

Weaknesses: Is not a deep threat or a big playmaker. Is a position blocker who will not dominate at point of attack in run game.

Bottom line: Is a versatile, capable backup.

The Chargers will utilize his receiving skills to cause matchup problems for opponents.

GRADE: 6.7

T38. Kris Mangum, Panthers

6-4 249 Age: 29 5th year

Strengths: A good athlete who is quick and agile. Has reliable hands. Ability to consistently catch on the run.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and doesn't match up well at the point of attack. Has trouble holding ground against bigger defensive ends. Will not be able to push the pile in the run game and is only an average blocker in space.

Bottom line: Marginal blocker who continues to improve. Is an adequate backup but is too

one-dimensional and isn't a big enough threat as a receiver to be a starter.

GRADE: 6.7

T41. Fred Baxter, Bears

6-3 252 Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Has good overall size and strength. When he locks on, it's usually over for the defender. Has good initial pop and power. Plays with adequate leverage and shows the lower body strength and base to anchor against the bull rush.

Weaknesses: Has poor initial quickness and overall burst as a receiver. Is not a threat down the seam and has less than average speed. Has only average hands.

Bottom line: His abilities as a blocker make him a good fit for two-tight end sets on obvious running downs.

GRADE: 6.6

T41. Mark Campbell, Browns

6-6 253 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size. Is very productive in the running game. Has reliable hands and will make the tough catch in traffic.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve balance. Lacks good upper-body strength. Lacks the ability to adjust to the blitz. Doesn't get good pop at the point of attack.

Bottom line: A solid, complementary-type tight end who lacks the athletic ability to play every down. Will get most of his time in short-yardage sets.

GRADE: 6.6

T43. Luther Broughton, Bears

6-0 248 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is versatile and has adequate receiving skills and good hands.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have great burst as a route runner. Struggles to get off the line of scrimmage at times and is not much of a downfield threat.

Bottom line: A more athletic tight end than the Bears have had in recent seasons. Lack of experience as a receiver means he could struggle early in the season.

GRADE: 6.5

T43. Tony McGee, Cowboys

6-4 248 Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Has soft hands and rarely drops a pass. Understands how to get open and has enough quickness to get a clean release. Runs polished routes.

Weaknesses: Lacks the lower-body strength to be an effective in-line blocker. No longer shows great burst or explosiveness. Age and durability are concerns, and his production has been in steady decline.

Bottom line: Must prove he still has the speed to contribute in a vertical passing game.

GRADE: 6.5

T43. Pete Mitchell, Jaguars

6-2 248 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Has good receiving skills. Can snatch ball away from body and is not afraid to go up and make tough catches in traffic.

Weaknesses: Does not have deep speed and doesn't show a great burst or second gear in the open field. Is not a great blocker; lacks the strength and bulk to compete in the trenches.

Bottom line: Receiving tight end who doesn't keep defensive coordinators up all night with concern.

GRADE: 6.5

T43. Rod Monroe, Browns

6-5 254 Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Has good blocking skills. Uses great fundamentals to win at the point of attack vs. bigger defensive linemen. Has good instincts.

Weaknesses: Does not contribute in the passing game. Lacks speed and quickness. Needs to improve route-running skills.

Bottom line: Works hard and shows solid tactical blocking, but his marginal pass-catching skills make him little more than a situational player in the Browns' offense.

GRADE: 6.5

T47. Marco Battaglia, Buccaneers

6-3 248 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Shows ability to stretch the defense. Can catch the ball away from his body and while on the run. Plenty of upside.

Weaknesses: Struggles getting off the line. Runs routes poorly. Has trouble blocking for the pass or the run. Provides few big plays as a receiver.

Bottom line: Strictly a backup because he is inconsistent as a receiver and not productive as a blocker.

GRADE: 6.4

T47. Sean Brewer, Bengals

6-4 255 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Takes excellent angles to blocks in the running game. Good overall instincts. Plays with good leverage. Does a good job of getting under the defender's pads.

Weaknesses: Does not have great hands. Lacks a great feel for the passing game. Health and durability are concerns.

Bottom line: Will be pushed for starting role. Needs to show the durability necessary to be a 16-game starter.

GRADE: 6.4

T47. Dan Campbell, Giants

6-5 260 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good size and adequate speed. Greatly improved his ability to find the soft spot in zone coverage last season. Not a dominating blocker, but effective.

Weaknesses: Is not a threat down the seam, and hands are inconsistent. Does not catch the ball well when forced to extend away from the body for it.

Bottom line: Excellent reserve who does not have big-play ability but has shown improvement as a receiver. A significantly better blocker than rookie teammate Jeremy Shockey.

GRADE: 6.4

T47. Matt Cushing, Steelers

6-4 260 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Versatile player who can produce as blocking fullback or run-blocking tight end. Effective at line of scrimmage; can tie up the defender and has adequate hands and power. Maintains blocks and finishes play.

Weaknesses: Lacks speed and quickness to separate as receiver. Poor change of direction and not efficient blocking in space. Can be pushed out of routes and not explosive in

and out of cuts.

Bottom line: Can play tight end and fullback, and is the likely candidate to team with Mark Bruener in two-tight end sets. **GRADE: 6.4**

T47. Jason Dunn, Chiefs

6-6 273 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and strength to contribute in the running game. Provides good pass protection in a short area. Has adequate hands and catches the ball on short and intermediate routes.

Weaknesses: Not a great threat as a receiver. Lacks quickness and burst to get separation and gets jammed at the line of scrimmage. Durability is an issue.

Bottom line: Fits well with this team because his style is completely the opposite of Tony Gonzalez's. **GRADE: 6.4**

T47. David Martin, Packers

6-4 250 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Does a good job getting off the line. Has the ability to make catches away from the body, over his head and below the waist.

Weaknesses: Must improve ability to find soft spots in zone coverage and make tough catch in traffic.

Bottom line: No.2 tight end is a liability as an in-line blocker, but is rarely used in that role. Is a big target who should continue to improve with experience. **GRADE: 6.4**

T47. Johnny McWilliams, Vikings

6-4 267 Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent speed for size and shows ability to stretch the seam. Shows soft hands and can make the tough catch in traffic. Is a threat in the red zone.

Weaknesses: Did not play a down in 2001. Not a great blocker despite size. Does not run sharp routes and can't find the soft spot in zone coverage. Concentration is inconsistent when the ball is in the air.

Bottom line: Former starter who will fight for playing time. **GRADE: 6.4**

T47. Itula Mili, Seahawks

6-4 258 Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has solid overall receiving skills. Shows the ability to use his body to create separation. A good athlete and an adequate blocker.

Weaknesses: Not a deep threat or an asset in short-yardage and goal-line situations. Lacks the ability to make big plays.

Bottom line: Will assume the role of No. 2 tight end behind rookie Jeramy Stevens. **GRADE: 6.4**

T47. Ed Perry, Dolphins

6-4 270 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Plays with a strong base. Does an excellent job recognizing the blitz and picking it up.

Weaknesses: Does not have premier hands or a great feel for the passing game. Lacks ideal instincts. Makes too many mistakes. Doesn't take good angles as a blocker and

misses the moving target in the running game.

Bottom line: Has the size and athletic ability to be an effective starter but must get open more consistently and make the catch. **GRADE: 6.4**

T47. Walter Rasby, Redskins

6-3 256 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has quick feet. Takes good angles to blocks. Plays with good leverage and shows adequate pop at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks size and has trouble moving bigger defensive linemen in the running game. Has marginal speed and athleticism.

Bottom line: Reserve who will contribute in two-tight end sets as a blocker but lacks the ideal bulk for that role. Lacks the receiving skills to have an impact in the passing game. **GRADE: 6.4**

T47. Jermaine Wiggins, Colts

6-2 255 Age: 27 2nd year

Strengths: A true receiving tight end. Gets downfield quickly. Makes the tough catch in traffic. Can pick up yards after the catch. Does a good job getting into blocking position.

Weaknesses: Inconsistent. Lacks the bulk to be an effective blocker in the running game. Does not have great athleticism.

Bottom line: Adequate reserve who is at his best in the passing game. Would struggle as a starter. **GRADE: 6.4**

58. Mondriel Fulcher, Raiders

6-3 245 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good overall size. Shows some toughness. Runs solid pass routes, cuts well and moves in and out of routes. Contributes on special teams.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve run-blocking skills. Lacks a good work ethic and gets out of shape. Seems to lack concentration.

Bottom line: Has plenty of upside. Must continue to prove his value, especially when playing on special teams. **GRADE: 6.3**

T59. John Jones, Ravens

6-4 255 Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size, athleticism and speed. Can deliver the big play. Can create opportunities in space. Will contribute on special teams.

Weaknesses: Is not a factor as a blocker. Often loses battles at point of attack. Inconsistent receiver. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Has good upside as a receiver and should find a place to contribute. **GRADE: 6.2**

T59. Mike Lucky, Cowboys

6-6 273 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: A physical blocker who has excellent size. Takes good angles to blocks and plays with leverage. Has adequate short-area receiving skills.

Weaknesses: Lacks an explosive first step and good initial pop at line of scrimmage.

Does not have ideal speed, burst or quickness. Has not shown the ability to stretch a seam. Is not a big-play threat after the catch.

Bottom line: A blocker who never will be a big target in the passing game. **GRADE: 6.2**

T59. Josh Whitman, Chargers

6-4 252 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good hands and is dependable in the short to intermediate passing game. Is an aggressive blocker who takes pride in winning one-on-one battles at the line.

Weaknesses: Lacks experience at tight end and is not a good technician. Must improve route running, blocking angles and technique. Is a bit undersized.

Bottom line: Is still in the developmental stage but has upside because of his aggressive attitude, impressive hands and pass-catching ability. **GRADE: 6.2**

T62. Matt Cercone, Vikings

6-5 255 Age: 26 1st year

Strengths: Displays impressive upper-body strength and gets good pop at the point of attack. Has soft hands and rarely drops a catchable pass.

Weaknesses: Has limited overall athletic ability and speed. Lacks explosiveness down the seam. Doesn't have quickness or elusiveness to produce after the catch. Lower-body strength less than ideal. Does not show the ability to move the pile.

Bottom line: No. 5 tight end who will contribute on special teams. **GRADE: 6.1**

T62. Brandon Manumaleuna, Rams

6-2 288 Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Surprisingly athletic for his build. Shows good initial pop at the point of attack and does an excellent job of maintaining blocks. Has soft hands and a good feel for the passing game.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal height. Needs to improve his angles and ability to make blocks beyond the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: No. 2 tight end who lacks ideal speed for this scheme but has the size to develop into a good player in two-tight end jumbo sets. **GRADE: 6.1**

T62. Tywan Mitchell, Cardinals

6-5 250 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: A big, athletic target. Runs routes well. Rarely drops a pass.

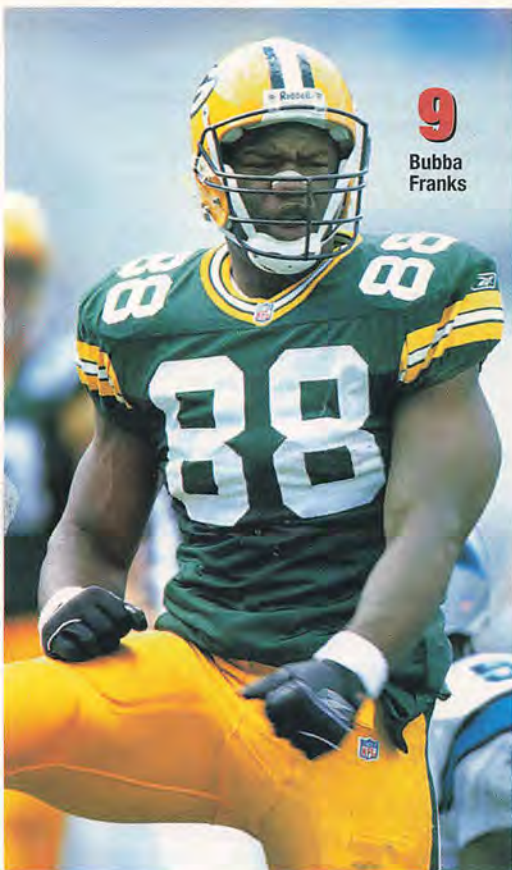
Weaknesses: Does not block with enough leverage and lacks ideal lower-body strength and base. Has a hard time blocking bigger, more physical outside linebackers and ends in the running game.

Bottom line: Backup tight end should see time as an H-back in passing-game packages. Creates matchup problems over the middle for linebackers and safeties. **GRADE: 6.1**

65. Sheldon Jackson, Bills

6-3 242 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good good size. Has the speed to press the seam in the passing game. Added



9
Bubba
Franks

bulk makes him stronger at the point of attack as a blocker.

Weaknesses: Looks lost in the passing game at times; has not learned coverages well enough to find the openings. Doesn't have great bulk or strength and plays too high.

Bottom line: Raw, developmental talent who must show more consistency as a receiver and continued improvement as a blocker.

GRADE: 6.0

T66. Steve Bush, Cardinals

6-3 258 Age: 28 6th year
A serviceable backup. Has experience, above-average blocking skills and can catch the ball in the short passing game.

GRADE: 5.9

T66. Tyrone Davis, Packers

6-4 260 Age: 30 7th year
No. 3 receiving tight end who has excellent athletic ability but will have hard time getting time after being out of shape for much of 2001.

GRADE: 5.9

T66. Corey Geason, Steelers

6-4 270 Age: 27 3rd year
Shows good effort and toughness but has below-average skills. Slow first step makes him a liability as a blocker and ineffective as pass-receiving tight end.

GRADE: 5.9

T66. Jackie Harris, free agent

6-4 250 Age: 34 12th year
Aging veteran and depth player at best. No longer has the speed or athletic ability to be much of a threat in the passing game and never was a great

blocker in the running game.

T66. Damon Jones, free agent

6-5 277 Age: 27 4th year
Character problems and durability issues have prevented this underachiever from developing into a productive starter. Has size, athletic ability and speed to be a quality player.

GRADE: 5.9

T66. Andrew Jordan, free agent

6-6 263 Age: 30 7th year
Veteran with excellent instincts who takes advantage of his experience. A No. 2 who no longer is able to generate much separation as a receiver.

GRADE: 5.9

T66. Arther Love, Patriots

6-4 243 Age: 24 2nd year
Missed 2001 rookie season because of injuries. Has great athletic ability and potential, but needs to work on techniques, the finer points of route running and his blocking.

GRADE: 5.9

T66. Mikhael Ricks, Lions

6-5 237 Age: 27 5th year
Converted wideout who lacks size. Is inconsistent but knows how to get open. Is effective in the red zone.

GRADE: 5.9

T66. O.J. Santiago, Vikings

6-7 264 Age: 28 5th year
Receiving tight end with the speed, athletic ability and skills to be an effective No. 2 and possibly start. An underachiever who needs to be more consistent.

GRADE: 5.9

T66. Justin Swift, 49ers

6-3 265 Age: 27 3rd year
Has ideal combination of size and speed as a receiver but has yet to translate potential into production. Inconsistent, and a marginal blocker.

GRADE: 5.9

T76. Casey Crawford, Panthers

6-6 255 Age: 25 3rd year
Potential is limited by lack of natural tools. Has good size and the ability to dominate some one-on-one matchups as a blocker in the run game.

GRADE: 5.8

T76. Shawn Draper, Dolphins

6-3 294 Age: 23 1st year
Plays more like an offensive tackle than a tight end. Lacks burst and the ability to create separation. Raw but young enough to improve if he works at it.

GRADE: 5.8

T76. Lamont Hall, Saints

6-4 260 Age: 27 4th year
A backup but probably is a better fit as a No. 3. Does not have the speed or athleticism to contribute consistently as a receiver. Has good strength and adequate size as a blocker.

GRADE: 5.8

T76. Terry Hardy, free agent

6-4 270 Age: 26 4th year
An aging veteran with good size. There are concerns about his durability. Clearly has lost a step and does not show great effort or get movement as a blocker in the running game.

GRADE: 5.8

T76. Jabari Holloway, Patriots

6-2 256 Age: 23 2nd year
Missed entire 2001 rookie season with injuries, so he remains an unknown quantity. Has youth and athleticism on his side, but tight end is a very crowded position in New England.

GRADE: 5.8

T76. Brian Kozlowski, Falcons

6-3 250 Age: 31 9th year
Hard worker and a solid special teams player and utilityman who can be a long snapper, halfback, full-

back or tight end. Will return as an emergency No. 3 tight end.

GRADE: 5.8

T76. Shad Meier, Titans

6-4 253 Age: 24 2nd year
An undersized receiving tight end who is a better fit at H-back than at tight end. Needs to add bulk and improve his explosiveness before making a significant contribution.

GRADE: 5.8

T76. Billy Miller, Texans

6-3 230 Age: 25 4th year
Is a former wide receiver who has good athletic ability and speed and is an asset in the passing game. Is not physical enough to help as a blocker.

GRADE: 5.8

T76. Tony Stewart, Eagles

6-5 255 Age: 23 2nd year
No. 3 tight end isn't an effective in-line blocker yet but has the frame, athleticism and confidence to develop into a solid backup.

GRADE: 5.8

T76. Todd Yoder, Buccaneers

6-4 250 Age: 24 3rd year
Receiving tight end who has an opportunity to flourish in the Bucs' new scheme. Has excellent receiving skills but is undersized and likely would struggle as a starter.

GRADE: 5.8

T86. Billy Baber, Chiefs

6-3 258 Age: 23 1st year
Good speed and receiving abilities but needs to develop blocking skills and play with more of a mean streak.

GRADE: 5.7

T86. Joe Dean Davenport, Colts

6-6 273 Age: 25 2nd year
Massive player whose main contribution will come as a blocker in short-yardage situations. Must improve his explosiveness.

GRADE: 5.7

T86. Patrick Hape, Broncos

6-4 262 Age: 28 6th year
Reserve who played some fullback last year but does not play with great leverage and lacks ideal power.

GRADE: 5.7

T86. Kirk McMullen, Bengals

6-4 255 Age: 25 2nd year
Does not show big-play ability or the lower-body strength to move the pile in the running game. Reliable hands. Big target over the middle.

GRADE: 5.7

T86. Marcellus Rivers, Giants

6-4 231 Age: 23 2nd year
Undersized. Adequate developmental tight end who shows soft hands and the speed to get down the seam. Does not run sharp routes. Is a liability as a blocker.

GRADE: 5.7

T86. Russell Stewart, Seahawks

6-4 250 Age: 24 2nd year
Reserve who has good potential as a receiving tight end. Lacks power, size, technique and lower-body strength to be an effective in-line blocker. Not an every-down player.

GRADE: 5.7

T86. Boo Williams, Saints

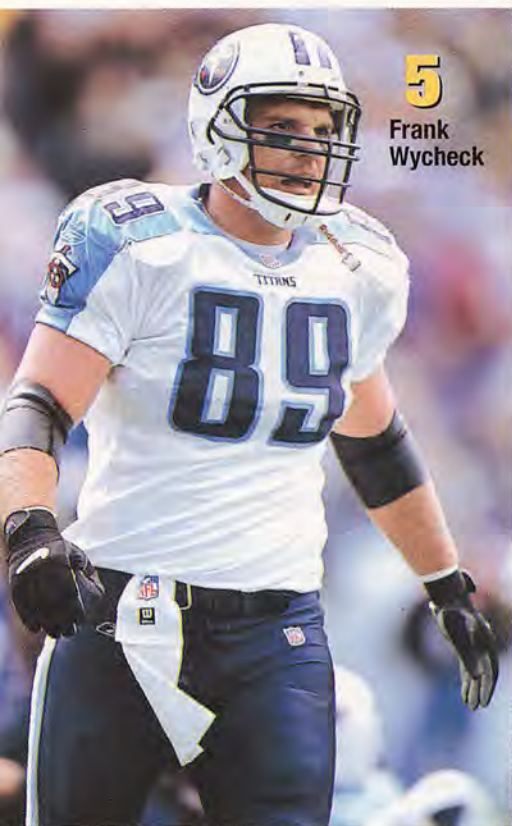
6-4 235 Age: 23 1st year
Must add bulk to his frame but never will be more than a No. 2 or No. 3 tight end; rarely will be used as a blocker in the running game.

GRADE: 5.7

93. Rod Rutledge, Texans

6-5 265 Age: 27 5th year
Has good size, speed and is athletic, but does not run good routes. Cannot get separation and is not a vertical threat. Tends to drop balls away from body. Is not a dominate blocker though that most likely will be his role.

GRADE: 5.4



5
Frank Wycheck

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

94. Kaseem Sinceno, Texans

6-4 259 Age: 26 3rd year
Could develop into an adequate position- and finesse-type blocker and a decent target in the short to intermediate passing game if he can stay healthy. That's a big if.

GRADE: 4.9

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Jeremy Shockey, Giants

6-5 252 Miami (Fla.), 1st round
Strengths: Rarely dropped a pass in college. Finds ways to get open particularly off play-action. Shows outstanding athleticism for size. Is a threat down the seam and in the red zone.

Weaknesses: Started only one year in college, so he's a little short on experience. Lacks the bulk and strength to be an effective in-line blocker at this point.

Bottom line: Has good receiving ability and is expected to have an immediate impact in the passing game. Not an effective blocker.

GRADE: 9.5

2. Daniel Graham, Patriots

6-3 248 Colorado, 1st round
Strengths: Has excellent hands; does a great job of adjusting to the ball in the air and makes all the tough catches. Runs good routes. Can find the soft spots in zones and does a great job of settling in underneath. Is a threat down the seams.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have great strength or

explosion. Doesn't have a lot of moves in the open field. Doesn't have great change of direction ability. Needs to add more power to his blocking.

Bottom line: As complete a package as there is a rookie tight end; it wouldn't be shocking for him to win the starting job during the season.

GRADE: 9.2

2. Jerramy Stevens, Seahawks

6-7 265 Washington, 1st round
Strengths: Has size, athleticism and speed. Can stretch a defense. Shows sudden burst in cuts and is a terrific target over the middle. Shows ability to change directions and make catches in stride. Comes off the line low, with good explosion. Has a quick first step and is a very good blocker.

Weaknesses: Tends to take plays off, especially running plays. Needs to be more physical. Loses concentration at times, looking to run upfield before he has the ball. Must improve pass-catching consistency.

Bottom line: If he stays out of trouble and on the field, he could be something Mike Holmgren hasn't had since joining the Seahawks in 1999—a tight end who can catch passes in the middle of the field.

GRADE: 8.7

4. Darnell Sanders, Browns

6-6 267 Ohio State, 4th round
Provides a nice target in short to intermediate passing game, but production as a receiver tailed off last year. Tends to disappear in games. Is not a consistent enough threat to stretch a defense. Probably should have stayed at Ohio State for senior season.

GRADE: 7.8

5. Terry Jones, Ravens

6-3 265 Alabama, 5th round
A big target who has soft hands. Has good strength and leverage. Holds up well at the point of attack in pass protection and the run game. Could develop into a tough short-area blocker, and with Todd Heap could give the Ravens a solid 1-2 punch at tight end.

GRADE: 7.7

6. Doug Jolley, Raiders

6-4 251 BYU, 2nd round
Has a good feel for the game, which shows in pass-catching skills and run-route abilities. Needs to add bulk and strength. Lacks power and doesn't dominate as a run blocker.

GRADE: 7.3

7. Chris Baker, Jets

6-3 258 Michigan State, 3rd round
Has tools to develop into an effective backup. Could contribute as a receiving tight end but must add bulk and lower-body strength.

GRADE: 6.5

8. Randy McMichael, Dolphins

6-3 247 Georgia, 4th round
Fourth-round pick who has good speed but must add bulk and improve as a blocker to contribute.

GRADE: 6.3

9. Robert Royal, Redskins

6-4 253 LSU, 5th round
No. 3 developmental tight end who has good size and athleticism. Could contribute in certain passing packages but must improve consistency catching the ball and strength before playing a significant role.

GRADE: 6.1

10. Matt Schobel, Bengals

6-5 263 TCU, 3rd round
Lacks ideal size and technique as in-line blocker. Excellent speed. Runs polished routes.

GRADE: 5.8

11. Justin Peelle, Chargers

6-4 255 Oregon, 4th round
Runs excellent routes, has great hands and is capable of making big plays but lacks great physical skills and can be overmatched physically at point of attack. His abilities as a blocker are suspect.

GRADE: 5.6

12. Keith Heinrich, Panthers

6-5 255 Sam Houston State, 6th round
A prospect to keep an eye on. Has good size. Has a lot of upside for the Panthers and could develop into the eventual replacement for Wesley Walls.

GRADE: 5.1

13. Tracey Wistrom, Buccaneers

6-4 245 Nebraska, 7th round
Gets open and catches everything, but a lack of size and strength will limit him to a situational role.

GRADE: 5.0

14. Chris Luzar, Jaguars

6-7 260 Virginia, 4th round
Is massive. Provides a big target in the passing game but needs a lot of work on technique. Isn't in a great situation behind veterans Kyle Brady and Pete Mitchell.

GRADE: 4.2

15. Jeb Putzier, Broncos

6-4 256 Boise State, 6th round
Played wide receiver and tight end in college, but projects as a receiving tight end in the NFL. Needs time to develop.

GRADE: 4.0

16. John Gilmore, Saints

6-3 265 Penn State, 6th round
An accomplished blocker who could find his niche with the Saints as a second tight end in short-yardage sets. Must prove he can handle the blocking responsibilities in such situations.

GRADE: 3.8

T17. Mark Anelli, 49ers

6-3 265 Wisconsin, 6th round
Has the size and strength to become into an effective blocker but needs time to develop.

GRADE: 3.0

T17. Mike Banks, Cardinals

6-4 260 Iowa State, 7th round
Reliable hands but has limited speed and mobility and lacks a strong blocking base.

GRADE: 3.0

T17. Bryan Fletcher, Bears

6-3 235 UCLA, 7th round
Developmental No. 3 tight end has the frame to add bulk but lacks explosiveness and must develop receiving skills.

GRADE: 3.0

T17. Ryan Hannam, Seahawks

6-2 251 Northern Iowa, 5th round
Drafted as a developmental receiver but never will be more than a situational option. Likely will get time on special teams and possibly could contribute in certain passing situations.

GRADE: 3.0

T17. John Owens, Lions

6-3 266 Notre Dame, 5th round
Inexperienced. Could compete for time in two-tight end sets and develop into an effective blocker.

GRADE: 3.0

T17. Bob Slowikowski, Cowboys

6-5 261 Virginia Tech, 6th round
Undersized but aggressive. Primarily a blocker. Must add bulk to get time in the No. 3 tight end spot.

GRADE: 3.0

OFFENSIVE TACKLES

VETERANS

1. Orlando Pace, Rams

6-7 325

Age: 26 6th year

Strengths: Possesses rare natural size, athleticism and overall skills. Is quick out of his stance and does a nice job of playing with leverage. Gets into good position. Has the mobility to get beyond the line and consistently block moving targets. Has great power at the point of attack. Typically will control a defender once he gets locked on. Does a nice job of driving his legs to finish a block. Has a quick setup and stays under control in pass protection. His long arms force edge rushers to take a wide arc. Rarely is beaten by double moves. Stays in excellent shape and has been durable.

Weaknesses: Does not always take good angles to blocks, especially downfield. Will get complacent at times.

Bottom line: Can dominate defenders in the running and passing games. **GRADE: 9.7**

2. Chris Samuels, Redskins

6-5 303

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has outstanding size and athleticism. Plays with leverage, has a quick set and shows good body control. Shows the ability to force the defensive end outside and the ability to redirect inside. Plays with excellent balance, rarely overextends and has excellent footwork. Has long arms and does a good job of using upper-body strength to create separation. Takes good angles to blocks. Is young and should continue to improve with experience.

Weaknesses: Isn't overpowering at the point of attack and does not play with a mean streak. Does not finish blocks at times. Has had problems keeping weight down.

Bottom line: Has outstanding mirror and slide ability in the passing game. Though not a dominant run blocker, he has the strength to develop in that area and rarely makes a mistake or misses a block. **GRADE: 9.4**

3. Jonathan Ogden, Ravens

6-8 340

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has good athleticism and outstanding quickness off the ball. Plays with good leverage. Rarely loses a battle when locked on. Has great strength at the point of attack. Works to finish blocks. Has long arms and takes good angles.

Weaknesses: After ankle injury, durability is a concern. Must regain aggressiveness.

Bottom line: Is a solid player who has the

1 Orlando Pace



ROBERT SCALF / ITSN

JOB REQUIREMENTS

	Ht.	Wt.	40
NFL optimum	6-6	325	5.00
NFL minimum	6-3	290	5.30

Right and left tackles rarely share similar skills. The left tackle protects the quarterback's blind side (unless the quarterback is lefthanded). He must have the athletic ability and quickness to handle speed coming off the edge and the base to anchor against the bull rush. The right tackle usually is massive and must have an explosive first step and leg drive to get movement in the running game. Tackles who do the job well in both areas are rare.

potential to be great. Is capable of dominating every play. Is the key to the offensive line. Plays at a high level. Must have a solid year.

GRADE: 8.9

T4. Willie Anderson, Bengals

6-5 340

Age: 27 7th year

Strengths: Comes off the ball hard. Consistently wins battles at point of attack. Is a good run blocker. Uses long arms to force defensive ends to take wide routes to quarterback. Work ethic has gotten better and shows considerable improvement.

Weaknesses: Does not move well laterally. Footwork is marginal. Struggles against

quick defensive ends. Does not show the ability to mirror and slide. Struggles to redirect in pass protection.

Bottom line: Left tackle who has massive size. Must improve footwork and pass protection skills. **GRADE: 8.8**

T4. Tra Thomas, Eagles

6-7 349 **Age: 27 5th year**

Strengths: Has ideal frame and bulk. Can engulf smaller linemen at the point of attack. Plays with leverage and balance and has excellent feet for his size. Uses long arms to ride pass rushers past the pocket. Rarely overextends and shows ability to change directions quickly. Continues to improve technique. Has good quickness and adequate mobility as a run blocker.

Weaknesses: Lacks an explosive first step, a powerful punch and ideal strength. Has a tendency to set too far outside in the passing game, allowing quicker ends to shoot inside. Weight fluctuates, and he appears sluggish at times.

Bottom line: Left tackle who continues to develop. Is an effective run blocker and has the pass-protection skills to protect quarterback Donovan McNabb's blind side. **GRADE: 8.8**

6. Tarik Glenn, Colts

6-5 332 **Age: 26 6th year**

Strengths: Has tremendous size. Has good hands and strong footwork. Can block linemen, then move on to linebackers. Works to finish blocks. Has not missed a game at the professional level.

Weaknesses: Wears down during the course of the game. Must improve conditioning and quickness. Does not make many blocks downfield.

Bottom line: Despite a down year in 2001, he still is one of the best and most durable left tackles in the league. Should have another dominant year as the starter. **GRADE: 8.6**

T7. Walter Jones, Seahawks

6-5 307 **Age: 28 6th year**

Strengths: A two-time Pro Bowl player who has excellent size and the athletic ability to handle some of the best edge rushers in the league. Has an effective punch and the feet to slide against wide rushers. Can redirect defenders in space and handle double moves. Has excellent overall footwork.

Weaknesses: Will not dominate in a physical style of game. Plays soft at times and does not attack as a run blocker. Conditioning is a concern. Needs to be tougher and more aggressive.

Bottom line: A pure left tackle who should continue to improve with experience and better conditioning. Already one of the most gifted pass blockers in the league. **GRADE: 8.3**

T7. Kyle Turley, Saints

6-5 300 **Age: 26 5th year**

Strengths: Has good overall athletic ability. Shows the consistent ability to slide and stay with his opponent. Has good initial pop. Takes great angles and has excellent feet. Has quick hands and is a fistfighter at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Not overpowering in the running game. Does not have great lower-body strength or a large base. Struggles against the bull rush.

Bottom line: Aside from average strength, is outstanding in every physical aspect. Effectiveness shouldn't suffer because of his move from the right side to the left. **GRADE: 8.3**

9. James Williams, Bears

6-7 325 **Age: 34 12th year**

Strengths: Is a massive player who has great bulk, strength and burst. Has a strong lower body in the running game and can move the pile. Has long arms to gain separation and works to sustain blocks. Is a solid pass-blocker who has good footwork and technique.

Weaknesses: Does not have great quickness in set and struggles to reach the corner against some of the league's top edge rushers.

Bottom line: Coming off first Pro Bowl season. Is powerful and technically sound enough to dominate at right tackle despite age. **GRADE: 8.2**

10. Chad Clifton, Packers

6-5 327 **Age: 26 3rd year**

Strengths: An intelligent, prepared player who rarely makes the same mistake twice. Has ideal size, footwork and change-of-direction skills. Plays with outstanding leverage and base. Moves the pile in the running game. Takes good angles to blocks. Does nice job of using his hands and long arms in pass protection. Shows improved balance.

Weaknesses: Appears to take plays off when they aren't run behind him. Doesn't show great initial pop in the running game. Is inconsistent when asked to block moving targets at the second level.

Bottom line: A solid starter who is equally strong in the running game and passing game. Could develop into one of the most efficient left tackles in the league with improved consistency. **GRADE: 8.0**

T11. Jon Jansen, Redskins

6-6 311 **Age: 26 4th year**

Strengths: Possesses excellent size and overall strength. Plays with adequate leverage, is physical and has the lower-body strength to dominate most matchups at the point of attack. Has quick feet and is technically sound. Shows a quick set and plays with good balance in pass protection. Should continue to improve with experience.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal mobility, struggles in space and has problems with speed rushers coming off the edge. Is inconsistent.

Bottom line: Powerful, aggressive right tackle who excels in the running game. Though not a perfect fit for Washington's pass-heavy offense because he lacks ideal athletic ability, he is an efficient pass protector. **GRADE: 7.9**

T11. Luke Petitgout, Giants

6-6 310 **Age: 26 4th year**

Strengths: Has good size and athletic ability. Continues to improve with experience. Plays with good leverage. Takes great angles to blocks in the running game. Has good initial pop and knocks some defensive linemen back with punch. Shows the ability to redirect in pass protection. Has great lateral quickness and a quick set. Has tremendous footwork. Durable.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal bulk and lower-body strength.

Bottom line: Is set to start on the right side but is not a dominant run blocker and might be a better fit on the left side because of efficient pass-blocking skills. **GRADE: 7.9**

T11. Barry Sims, Raiders

6-5 295 **Age: 27 3rd year**

Strengths: Is tough and durable. Is versatile enough to play any position on line. Has good feet and balance. Plays under control. Can protect outside against edge rushers because of quick feet.

Weaknesses: Is not a power player and needs to improve overall strength. Does not overwhelm opponents. Uses effective positioning rather than brute force at the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Is an underrated left tackle. Has a good feel for the game but continues to improve with experience. **GRADE: 7.9**

14. Scott Gragg, 49ers

6-8 325 **Age: 30 8th year**

Strengths: Has learned to use long arms to keep pass rushers under control. Plays with improved overall balance and footwork. Rarely overextends and shows the ability to

ON THE RISE: Matt Light, Patriots

It's not easy to start at left tackle as a rookie in this league, but Light held his own en route to the team's Super Bowl victory. He should improve with experience.

ON THE DECLINE: Brent Smith, Dolphins

Had his first chance to be a full-time starter in 2001 but missed the season because of a knee injury. If the knee still is ailing, he could struggle this season.

MOST ATHLETIC: Orlando Pace, Rams

His athletic ability separates him from the rest of the league. He can block the line-backer at the second level and does a great job redirecting in pass protection.

BEST RUN BLOCKER: Jon Jansen, Redskins

He has great strength, technique and intelligence, but it's his ability to hit linebackers on the move and ferocious mean streak that make him the league's best.

BEST PASS BLOCKER: Orlando Pace, Rams

He dominates both the running and the passing games, but his combination of size and outstanding athleticism is what keeps QB Kurt Warner's blind side safe.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: John Tait, Chiefs

He's an athletic player and an excellent fit on the left side. But with the addition of Willie Roaf, Tait will play out of position on the right side, limiting his effectiveness.

redirect pass rusher inside. Plays with adequate leverage. Has the size and strength to dominate at the point of attack in the running game.

Weaknesses: He's aging and lacks the mobility to be effective in space. Occasionally comes out of his stance too high and bends at the waist rather than at the knees in pass protection.

Bottom line: Is a prototypical right tackle who has a rare combination of size and power. Has enough balance and quickness to hold up one-on-one in pass protection.

GRADE: 7.8

T15. Flozell Adams, Cowboys

6-7 335

Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has outstanding size, strength and decent athletic ability. Uses long arms to create separation and ride defenders past the quarterback. Shows adequate initial quickness. Keeps legs driving and sustains blocks.

Weaknesses: Doesn't move as well as most left tackles and his footwork is inconsistent. Lacks good initial pop. Struggles to redirect in pass protection and will set too high at times. Work ethic has been questioned.

Bottom line: Is one of the biggest and most physical tackles in the league, but he lacks the pass-protection skills to adequately protect the quarterback's blindside. Probably is a better fit at right tackle.

GRADE: 7.7

T15. Jason Fabini, Jets

6-7 304

Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Wears down opponents with his tenacity, size and strength. Plays with a mean streak. Gets good initial pop at the point of attack. Uses his strength and leverage to win the battle at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Has trouble with speed rushers who can beat him to the corner. Lacks the ability to redirect in pass protection. Doesn't have great change of direction skills.

Bottom line: Left tackle who won't become an elite player until he moves to the right side. Is effective on the left and should have another productive season.

GRADE: 7.7

17. Solomon Page, Cowboys

6-4 321

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has adequate size and good athletic ability. Plays with good leverage. Rolls hips into blocks and generates good initial pop. Uses long arms to create separation and ride defenders past the pocket. Rarely gives up a sack. Shows good change-of-direction skills and the ability to block moving targets at the second level.

Weaknesses: Unlike most NFL right tackles, he isn't overwhelming or overpowering at point of attack. Is coming off a knee injury that caused him to miss some time last year.

Bottom line: Probably is a better fit at left tackle but still is a productive starter.

GRADE: 7.6

T18. Derrick Deese, 49ers

6-3 289

Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Is versatile and durable. Plays with leverage and does an outstanding job of getting in position to make blocks. Shows excellent footwork and remains quick enough to slide and stay with his man in pass protection. Uses hands to create separation.

Weaknesses: His natural tools clearly are in decline. Lacks great bulk and the lower-body strength to get movement in the running game. Does not get good initial pop at the point of attack.

Bottom line: Is slowing down but knows how to mask his lack of power and declining mobility with outstanding technique.

GRADE: 7.5

T18. Brad Hopkins, Titans

6-3 305

Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Has good lower-body strength and can move the pile on the running game. Is a smart player who shows good instincts. Shows the ability to dominate at times in both the running game and the passing game.

Weaknesses: Will struggle working against the better speed rushers in the league. Does not show great technique and pass protection. Needs to improve conditioning.

Bottom line: Is capable of being one of the better tackles in the league but must be more consistent in effort and technique or problems could continue.

GRADE: 7.5

T20. Lincoln Kennedy, Raiders

6-6 340

Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: A massive player who is a consistent force at right tackle. Is smart. Uses his size to his advantage and plays under control. Has good feet, balance and does a nice job of altering his path when necessary to make a block. Is efficient as a run blocker.

Weaknesses: Is not an efficient blocker in the open. Lacks great range. Does not play with overall power and can wear down late in games.

Bottom line: A smart and instinctive player who should play at a high level this season and beyond

GRADE: 7.4

T20. Adam Meadows, Colts

6-5 289

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has outstanding instincts and intelligence. Gets good blocking position on defenders. Has good speed and downfield ability. Is durable.

Weaknesses: Does not attack blocks in the passing game as he does in the running game. Lacks the lower body strength to block well consistently in the running game. Must improve concentration.

Bottom line: Is neither a dominant run blocker nor pass blocker but is a good athlete who works to the whistle and generally gets the job done.

GRADE: 7.4

T20. Todd Steussie, Panthers

6-6 308

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Will

drive through blocks. Has good power when locked on in the passing game. Shows the speed and quick set to get in position against some of quicker edge rushers.

Weaknesses: Plays a bit top-heavy and does not have great lateral movement. Is walling off more and sustaining less.

Bottom line: Is a veteran whose physical skills clearly are in decline. Still, he did an adequate job in the passing game and a very good job in the running game last season. Should have one or two more seasons of solid starting ability.

GRADE: 7.4

T20. Trey Teague, Bills

6-5 292

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has excellent athletic ability and the ability to mirror and slide with most defensive ends. Does a good job of using long arms to ride the defender past the pocket. Plays with good balance and shows good quickness. Is versatile enough to play both center and tackle.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and does not show the ability to consistently move the pile in the running game. Must play with perfect technique to create running lanes for the back.

Bottom line: Versatile starter who will be pushed by Marques Sullivan for playing time and will be learning a new scheme. Has the lateral mobility to protect quarterback Drew Bledsoe's blind side.

GRADE: 7.4

T20. Ryan Tucker, Browns

6-5 305

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Plays with a nasty streak. Is excellent in the short area and in pass protection. Takes good angles to blocks.

Weaknesses: Lacks great quickness and range. Struggles in space; can't be left on an island. Will lose battles against most speed rushers.

Bottom line: Brings a much-needed toughness to the Cleveland line and will make it much easier for the Browns to run to the right.

GRADE: 7.4

T20. Bob Whitfield, Falcons

6-5 310

Age: 30 11th year

Strengths: Has good overall strength and size. Does a nice job of using his long arms and strong upper body to force a wide arc and to keep separation in pass protection. Will engulf defensive ends at point of attack in the running game.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal feet and mobility. Does not always play with balance. Will overextend at times and has trouble changing directions. Is not a good athlete and will wear down late in games.

Bottom line: Is an adequate starter who is efficient in the passing game. No longer is athletic enough to hold up in one-on-one situations for an entire season.

GRADE: 7.4

T20. Jerry Wunsch, Buccaneers

6-6 339

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has great size and exceptional

lower-body strength. Plays with leverage. Has good initial pop. Takes the proper angles and is crafty. Displays a mean streak.

Weaknesses: Struggles vs. speed rushers who go wide; lacks the quickness to stay with speedy pass-rushing ends.

Bottom line: One of the league's more dominant tackles as a run blocker, but limited athletic ability and quickness put a cap on his potential. Experience and improved technique have helped, but he can't be left alone in pass-blocking situations. **GRADE: 7.4**

T27. Jeff Backus, Lions

6-5 308 **Age: 24 2nd year**
Strengths: Knows how to get into position and sustain blocks. Is quick and physical. Started all 16 games and showed maturity as a rookie.

Weaknesses: Has trouble shifting his weight. Needs better balance and leverage when pass blocking. Lacks ideal strength.

Bottom line: Starter who lacks mobility and technique in pass protection but is an effective run blocker. Should become a more complete player with experience. **GRADE: 7.3**

T27. Blake Brockermeier, Broncos

6-4 300 **Age: 29 7th year**

Strengths: Has good size and is tough. Has good upper-body strength and gets good initial pop. Does a good job bending knees in pass protection and shows the ability to redirect quickly. Takes great angles to blocks and has the athletic ability to block the moving target in space.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal quickness and will struggle with the elite pass rushers coming off the edge. Occasionally comes out of the stance too high.

Bottom line: Fundamentally sound player who has the athletic ability to have an excellent first year with the Broncos. Should help improve their running game and pass protection. **GRADE: 7.3**

T27. Wayne Gandy, Steelers

6-5 310 **Age: 31 9th year**

Strengths: Athletic player who has good feet and quickness. Adjusts well on the move and can wall off defenders. Has excellent overall instincts and takes good angles. Can mirror and slide in pass protection vs. edge rushers. Stays under control with good balance and leverage. Utilizes arm extension to get separation.

Weaknesses: Struggles vs. power players and is not very physical. Lacks great lower-body explosion and power and will struggle anchoring against big, powerful two-gap defensive linemen.

Bottom line: Will never be power run blocker, but is a solid pass protector for quarterback Kordell Stewart. Rarely gives up big plays or makes mistakes. **GRADE: 7.3**

T27. Jon Runyan, Eagles

6-7 330 **Age: 28 7th year**

Strengths: Has a huge frame and a wide wingspan. Has the power and bulk to dominate at the point of attack in the running game. Gets excellent initial pop and has a strong punch.

Weaknesses: Is not very quick and lacks ideal footwork in pass protection. Will come out of his stance too high and does not have great balance or ability to change directions. Lacks overall athletic ability and doesn't show the skills to block moving targets beyond the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Mauling right tackle who improved as last season progressed but lacks the mobility and pass-protection skills to excel in a finesse scheme. **GRADE: 7.3**

T27. L.J. Shelton, Cardinals

6-6 335 **Age: 26 4th year**

Strengths: Has good natural strength and is powerful at the point of attack. With his long arms and strong upper body, he can keep separation on his blocks. Can slide laterally adequately.

Weaknesses: Tends to bend at the waist instead of at the knees. That causes him to lose balance, have trouble redirecting and struggle with quicker defensive tackles.

Bottom line: Is not an ideal fit at left tackle because of limited mobility but can be dominant in the running game. Eventually should move to right tackle or even guard. **GRADE: 7.3**

T27. John Tait, Chiefs

6-6 316 **Age: 27 4th year**

Strengths: Has outstanding size, athleticism and footwork. Can mirror and slide with a defender. Does well to re-adjust in pass protection. Moves well laterally and in space. Has ability to wall off and run block. Has great work ethic and attitude.

Weaknesses: Is not a power player and struggles against physical defensive ends. Seems to tire late in games. Doesn't always finish blocks and put away defenders.

Bottom line: Starter who is struggling to make the transition from left tackle to right tackle. A finesse player who matches up better with speed and quickness than power—playing on the right side does not suit his skills. **GRADE: 7.3**

T33. Tony Boselli, Texans

6-7 322 **Age: 30 8th year**

Strengths: Has a tremendous combination of size, speed and feet. Has long arms that allow him to slide and mirror with most defensive lineman. Gets good separation and plays with leverage. Has the strength and leverage to anchor vs. bull rushers.

Weaknesses: Durability and injuries are biggest concerns. Will tend to play a little high at times and allow defensive linemen to get under his pads.

Bottom line: Is a great matchup athletically for the best pass rushers in the league. If healthy, will be a huge asset for rookie quarterback David Carr. **GRADE: 7.2**

T33. Anthony Clement, Seahawks

6-8 351 **Age: 26 5th year**

Strengths: A widebody who gets by on size and strength. Can dominate at the point of attack and has the lower-body strength and mean streak needed to finish blocks in the running game once locked on. Is aggressive

and plays hard all the time.

Weaknesses: Not a great athlete. Struggles in space and on an island in pass protection. Not always in great shape; weight always will be a concern.

Bottom line: Still is young enough to improve. Gets better each season and fits perfectly in a physical, run-oriented offense. **GRADE: 7.2**

T33. Matt Lepsis, Broncos

6-4 290 **Age: 28 6th year**

Strengths: Has the ability to get downfield and throw a block. Does a good job of playing with leverage and maintaining a good base. Has good upper body strength and can deliver a powerful punch at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal strength. Will struggle with bigger, more physical defensive ends. Does not display great instincts as a blocker.

Bottom line: Is more than capable of having another productive year as the Broncos' starting right tackle. **GRADE: 7.2**

T33. Willie Roaf, Chiefs

6-5 312 **Age: 32 10th year**

Strengths: Has excellent size and power. Moves well despite his size and age. Can adjust his direction to make blocks in pass protection. Finishes blocks. Plays with good fundamentals as a run blocker. Takes good angles to blocks.

Weaknesses: Sometimes overextends and has problems with explosive edge pass rushers. Doesn't always play with great leverage and knee bend. A suspect knee and other injuries are concerns.

Bottom line: A good but no longer great left tackle who is trying to extend his career despite durability concerns. **GRADE: 7.2**

T33. Marvel Smith, Steelers

6-5 308 **Age: 24 3rd year**

Strengths: A consistent player who has good feet and overall quickness. Shows ability to change directions and redirect, enabling him to mirror and slide in pass protection. A high-effort player who works to finish blocks and uses angles to wall off defenders.

Weaknesses: Struggles vs. big, two-gap power players. Appears high and soft at times and does not always explode off the line of scrimmage. Durability is a concern because of a history of knee problems.

Bottom line: A starter on the right side, but finesse and natural athletic skills make him more suited for left tackle. His athleticism makes him a solid right tackle and a productive position blocker. A key part of the Steelers' power run game. **GRADE: 7.2**

T33. Chris Terry, Panthers

6-5 295 **Age: 27 4th year**

Strengths: Has good speed and overall mobility. Shows tremendous balance. Does a good job of getting out and hitting the moving target. Has good initial power and overall strength.

Weaknesses: Lacks great size, overpowering strength and bulk. Needs to improve consistency. Will get beat by some veteran

defensive ends with double moves.

Bottom line: Still has bulk to add to frame and can improve his overall technique, but is a good starting right tackle who should get better with experience.

GRADE: 7.2

T33. Ross Verba, Browns

6-4 308 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Plays with good leverage. Uses his hands to his advantage. Has a good work ethic and will block until the whistle on every play. Has good footwork and awareness.

Weaknesses: Lacks the upper-body strength to overpower bigger players; gets pushed around too much. Struggles when required to pick up stunts as a pass blocker. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Is versatile enough to play any position on the line but probably fits best at guard.

GRADE: 7.2

T33. Richmond Webb, Bengals

6-6 325 Age: 35 13th year

Strengths: Good overall technique. Still has the lower-body strength and the size to move the pile. Uses long arms to ride the defender past the pocket.

Weaknesses: No longer has the lateral mobility to be dominant in pass protection. Lacks the ability to block the moving target in the running game.

Bottom line: Gets the job done with strength and technique but is aging and should be replaced in the near future.

GRADE: 7.2

T41. Todd Wade, Dolphins

6-8 325 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size and long arms. Plays with a mean streak and a non-stop motor. Is durable; shows the toughness to play through pain. Has the lower-body strength to get movement in the running game. Has good instincts. Plays with great strength and adequate quickness.

Weaknesses: Struggles against quicker, more active defenders. Has not shown the ability to recognize or pick up line stunts and blitzes. Does not have great athletic ability or balance. Must improve technique in pass protection.

Bottom line: Clearly is a better run blocker than a pass blocker at this point but young enough to improve.

GRADE: 7.1

T41. Kenyatta Walker, Buccaneers

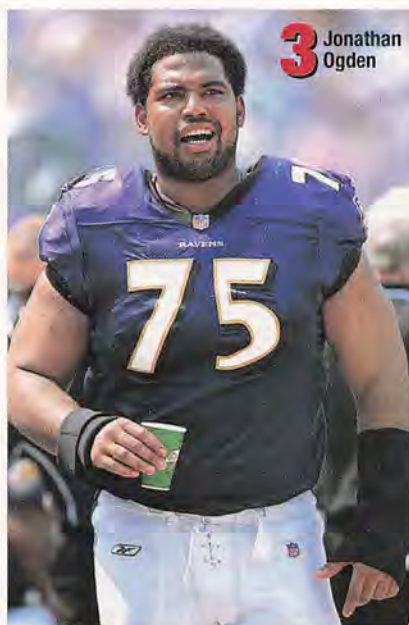
6-5 302 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Can hit moving targets. Has the feet, initial pop and overall agility to be an outstanding blind-side pass protector. Dominates most pass rushers.

Weaknesses: Doesn't sustain blocks in the running game. Must improve technique and overall footwork; doesn't take advantage of athleticism. Lateral movement needs work. Doesn't hold up against league's elite pass rushers off the edge.

Bottom line: Is improving with experience plus a full offseason of training. Has the ingredients and agility to become one of the league's better pass blockers.

GRADE: 7.1



3 Jonathan Ogden

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

T41. Maurice Williams, Jaguars

6-5 307 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is big and physical. Shows toughness and aggressiveness. Has decent athletic ability and runs well for size. Is an ascending player who has the attitude to improve.

Weaknesses: His athleticism does not transfer well to the field. Has trouble with speed rushers. Does a poor job adjusting to quick outside moves. Struggles a bit when he has to turn and run.

Bottom line: Has a nice blend of strength and toughness and just enough athleticism.

GRADE: 7.1

T44. Matt Light, Patriots

6-4 305 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is a good athlete. Uses his feet and balance to put himself in great position. Shows excellent redirect qualities and the ability to change directions. Can match most defensive ends in terms of athleticism and feet.

Weaknesses: Struggles against bull rushers. Does not contribute much as a run blocker. Is not a physical player.

Bottom line: If he continues on same path, he could be the Patriots' starting left tackle for years.

GRADE: 7.0

T44. Damion McIntosh, Chargers

6-4 325 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is young, big and strong and gets good movement at point of attack. Has decent knee bend with an adequate base and balance.

Weaknesses: Still is raw; needs to improve skills and quickness. Has trouble with athletic defensive linemen and lacks range. Appears to lack football instincts.

Bottom line: Is inconsistent but could develop into a powerful run blocker over time. Needs to stay focused and work on his pass blocking.

GRADE: 7.0

T44. Greg Robinson-Randall, Patriots

6-5 322 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has massive size. Is an effective run blocker who will move the pile. Takes good angles to the ball and uses his body to wall off. Has very good power.

Weaknesses: Lacks the ability to slide and mirror in pass protection. Is vulnerable to speed moves or any sudden change of direction inside. Will struggle on an island with edge rushers. Needs to improve conditioning.

Bottom line: Never will be a great athlete but has enough size and ability to be a solid starter if he maintains focus.

GRADE: 7.0

T44. Mark Tauscher, Packers

6-3 320 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Takes good angles. Has decent strength at the point of attack and works to get into position and finish blocks. Does a good job against the bull rush and has learned to bend at the knees and maintain leverage.

Weaknesses: Is not overly athletic and lacks ideal initial quickness. Lacks long arms and the ability to ride defensive ends past the pocket. Needs help in pass protection against speedy edge rushers.

Bottom line: Never will be a dominant player in the running game or a shutdown tackle in the passing game but won't make many mistakes and should improve with experience.

GRADE: 7.0

T44. Todd Weiner, Falcons

6-4 297 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has natural size and decent athletic ability, and is competitive. Will try hard and will work to finish blocks. Has long arms and decent short-area ability in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Lacks ability to hold his ground in the running game. Tends to play high at times. Lacks the power to move the pile. Will give ground to bull rushers. Will struggle against quicker speed rushers.

Bottom line: Still has room and time to improve and will have every chance to start.

GRADE: 7.0

T44. Zach Wiegert, Jaguars

6-5 310 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has good strength and power. Shows decent athletic ability. Is quick off the ball and does a fair job blocking in space. Has long arms. Is versatile enough to play center, guard or tackle.

Weaknesses: Can't play a power-type game. Does not dominate at the point of attack, misses blitzes and has trouble making adjustments. Has had nagging injuries, so durability is a concern. Does not dominate for a player with his experience.

Bottom line: Is the starter at left tackle, but his skills are better suited for guard.

GRADE: 7.0

T50. John Fina, free agent

6-5 300 Age: 33 11th year

Strengths: Takes good angles to blocks. Has good initial quickness and overall ability.

Weaknesses: Lacks the lower-body strength and bulk to hold ground at the point of attack. Doesn't win many short-area battles against bigger, more physical defensive linemen.

Bottom line: Intelligent, mobile player who could rebound from a down season. Still is athletic enough to change directions in the passing game but is aging, and there are durability concerns. **GRADE: 6.9**

T50. Jonas Jennings, Bills

6-3 320 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good strength and shows good body control in pass protection. Shows the ability to sink hips and bend knees in pass protection. Has excellent size.

Weaknesses: Has a history of ankle problems. Wears down and loses mobility.

Bottom line: Can be a powerful blocker, but durability is a question, and keeping his weight under control is a problem. **GRADE: 6.9**

T50. Matt Joyce, Lions

6-7 305 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has an explosive first step and a powerful punch. Is massive with long arms and a wide frame. Rides defensive ends past the pocket in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Is limited athletically and doesn't stay with defenders in pass protection. Has marginal balance. Has trouble making blocks in space.

Bottom line: Played well when forced into a starting role last season but would be better as a reserve because of his poor technique and lack of mobility. **GRADE: 6.9**

T50. Vaughn Parker, Chargers

6-3 300 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Is an intelligent, competitive player who has good overall toughness and feet. Is a good run blocker with a feel for blocking angles.

Weaknesses: Is not a great athlete. Appears stiff and lacks quickness and change-of-direction skills. Struggles with athletic edge rushers. Looks top-heavy and plays sluggish at times. Lacks range and does not have a big wingspan.

Bottom line: His skills are declining. The Chargers will look to replace him in the near future. **GRADE: 6.9**

T50. Ephraim Salaam, Broncos

6-7 300 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has a good combination of size and athleticism. Works to finish blocks once engaged. Is versatile enough to play on either side. Shows the ability to redirect in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Does not have great strength. Can't get consistent movement in the running game. Is not as physical or as aggressive as he should be.

Bottom line: Has the skills to develop into an outstanding lineman in the Broncos' scheme. At worst, will be an excellent reserve who provides good depth. **GRADE: 6.9**



PAUL INSELY FOR TSN

T50. Marcus Spears, Chiefs

6-4 312 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Versatile—he can play left or right tackle and fill in at guard. Has natural athletic ability. Moves well and has good strength. Able to provide decent run blocking and pass protection.

Weaknesses: Plays is sluggish at times. Inconsistent at picking up the blitz. Plays too straight up and sometimes with sloppy technique. Appears to take plays off.

Bottom line: Is a talented backup who has no glaring physical or athletic deficiencies, but effort and production are inconsistent. **GRADE: 6.9**

T56. Everett Lindsay, Vikings

6-4 302 Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Tough, hard-nosed player who gets off the ball well. Shows excellent instincts, works to get into position and takes good angles to blocks. Will do anything to get the job done.

Weaknesses: Has a problem with power rushers and will get overwhelmed in a short area against bigger defensive tackles. Has average strength and athletic ability.

Bottom line: Backup who can play all five line positions and stays low to the ground. Strength is lacking. Relies on technique to be effective. **GRADE: 6.8**

T56. Stockar McDougle, Lions

6-6 350 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Shows great push in the running game when he works to get into position. Plays with leverage and has good lower-body strength. Hands and upper-body strength are solid.

Weaknesses: Has not stayed healthy long enough to improve. Work ethic has been questioned. Footwork and balance are poor. **Bottom line:** Disappointing and inconsistent player who has serious durability concerns. Can challenge for playing time when healthy. **GRADE: 6.8**

T56. Chris McIntosh, Seahawks

6-6 314 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: A massive player who has mauler qualities. Shows ability to anchor against the bull rush. Can move the pile in the running game. Shows good movement and takes solid angles.

Weaknesses: Lacks explosiveness and initial pop as a run blocker. His conditioning and durability are questions. Has slow feet and tends to get beaten by quicker, more agile linemen.

Bottom line: Has the physical tools to develop into a solid starter but has a lot to prove. Came to camp last year out of shape and finished the season on injured reserve because of a stinger problem. **GRADE: 6.8**

T56. Roman Oben, Buccaneers

6-4 305 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has quick feet and plays with balance. Can get out and block on linebackers in the running game. Takes good angles to blocks. Can block moving defenders.

Weaknesses: Loses too many physical battles. Lacks bulk and strength at the point of attack. Has trouble holding his ground against bull-rushing defenders. Must be more aggressive.

Bottom line: Provides solid depth in case of an injury to Kenyatta Walker or Jerry Wunsch. **GRADE: 6.8**

T56. Victor Riley, Saints

6-5 328 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: A widebody. Has good initial pop and a strong upper body. Has long arms and forces rushers wide in the passing game.

Weaknesses: Must improve conditioning. Lacks good feet. Struggles to get to the corner. Lunges too far at times and loses balance.

Bottom line: Can become a dominant right tackle but must keep working hard at getting in shape. **GRADE: 6.8**

T56. John St. Clair, Rams

6-4 320 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Uses long arms to ride ends past the pocket. Has an explosive punch and does a nice job of keeping separation.

Weaknesses: Does not have good overall athleticism and will struggle when isolated in pass protection. Will lunge occasionally.

Bottom line: Powerful first-year starter who improved in practice last season. Will struggle at times in pass protection and might need a lot of help from the tight ends. **GRADE: 6.8**

T56. Elliot Silvers, Chargers

6-7 320 Age: 24 1st year

Strengths: Has outstanding size, a strong work ethic and good instincts. Has nice quickness and uses hands well; knows how to

position his body and take good angles as a run blocker. Has a nice short-area set. Can block in the open field. Makes few mistakes. **Weaknesses:** Lacks power, does not always play with leverage and bends at the waist too often.

Bottom line: Is versatile enough to play guard or tackle and will be productive at either position. **GRADE: 6.8**

T63. Brad Badger, Raiders

6-4 319 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has solid techniques. Comes off ball well. Able to wall off and position himself nicely against defenders. Is an effective straight-line blocker.

Weaknesses: Struggles when asked to block in open space or against power. Struggles to hold his ground against a physical defender. **Bottom line:** A smart, finesse-type player who is for the most part a capable backup at left tackle. **GRADE: 6.7**

T63. Brent Smith, Dolphins

6-5 315 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent athletic ability. Plays with a great motor. Has good balance and body control in pass protection. Has outstanding instincts.

Weaknesses: Is coming off major reconstructive knee surgery that caused him to miss all of last season. Must develop more of a mean streak. Lacks the lower-body strength to get consistent movement in the running game. Has long arms but must do a better job of using them to ride defenders past the pocket and to maintain separation.

Bottom line: Has the build, intelligence and ability to excel as a starter but needs experience. **GRADE: 6.7**

T63. Michael Thompson, Falcons

6-4 295 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good feet and overall agility. Does a nice job of redirecting in pass protection. Is quick out of stance and a classic wall-off run blocker.

Weaknesses: Has durability issues and lacks overall bulk and strength. Will get knocked off his feet too often. Can't drive defenders in the running game and push the pile.

Bottom line: Is a promising prospect. Has better natural physical skills than Todd Weiner and ultimately could beat out Weiner for the job. **GRADE: 6.7**

T66. McAllister Collins, Steelers

6-2 307 Age: 23 1st year

Strengths: Has good short-area quickness with adequate overall athletic ability. Works hard to finish blocks and can shift, move and chip in space. At his best when uncovered. Takes good angles to ball.

Weaknesses: Is not a power player nor one who has explosiveness. Lacks great range to the outside for a left tackle.

Bottom line: Is a solid, dependable backup, yet not exciting. **GRADE: 6.6**

T66. Ed Ellis, Chargers

6-7 325 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Is a big, physical, mauler type who has rare power and size. Has good hands and

will battle in a short area.

Weaknesses: Is not a good athlete. Does not slide feet well, move well laterally or have the ability to redirect. Struggles in space.

Bottom line: Despite his pass-blocking deficiencies, his ability to move the pile on running plays makes him a valued asset. **GRADE: 6.6**

T66. Brandon Gorin, Chargers

6-6 304 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good instincts and intelligence, solid footwork and change-of-direction skills. Is able to mirror and slide with speed rushers. Is an adept technician with fluid movements.

Weaknesses: Is not a power player and isn't physical on inside running plays. Does not always play with good leverage and struggles against bull rushers.

Bottom line: Has a nice upside and further development should make him a solid player. **GRADE: 6.6**

T66. Floyd Wedderburn, Seahawks

6-5 333 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: A wide body who is difficult to get around because of his huge wingspan. Has enough strength to push the pile in the running game. Shows good initial pop and has the ability to keep separation.

Weaknesses: Has poor overall technique and lacks both quickness and mobility. Has trouble redirecting as a pass protector. Is top-heavy and lacks good balance.

Bottom line: Is making the transition from guard to tackle. Has a chance to push for a starting job in Seattle next season but is a developmental backup for now. **GRADE: 6.6**

T70. Earl Dotson, Packers

6-4 317 Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Is aggressive, has good size and above-average strength. Takes good angles, plays with leverage and does a nice job of getting into position in the running game.

Weaknesses: No longer slides well in pass protection and has trouble with double moves.

Bottom line: A reserve who still has the ability to get movement in the running game but is a liability in pass protection and has durability concerns. **GRADE: 6.5**

T70. Kareem McKenzie, Jets

6-6 327 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and is strong. Shows great power at the point of attack. Dominates most bull rushers. Has long arms.

Weaknesses: Does not have ideal lateral mobility. Lacks initial quickness and ability to beat the defender to the spot. Does not always take good angles to his blocks.

Bottom line: First-year starter who will experience growing pains but has the run-blocking skills to develop into a productive right tackle. **GRADE: 6.5**

T70. Fred Miller, Titans

6-7 315 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Shows the lower-body strength to move the pile. Will work to sustain and

finish his blocks. Is a tough and durable player who can play through pain.

Weaknesses: Has trouble with speed rushers. Will struggle to anchor against the bull rush and doesn't pick up the blitz well. Will play out of control at times.

Bottom line: Has the size, strength and athletic ability to be an effective starter but not until he shows improved technique and explosiveness. **GRADE: 6.5**

T70. Matt Willig, 49ers

6-8 315 Age: 33 11th year

Strengths: Works to finish blocks and shows good combination of size and strength. Has learned to use his arms to keep opponents from getting into his body. Shows a hard punch and good initial pop at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks an explosive first step and the range to handle quicker pass rushers coming off the edge. Plays too high and loses balance at times.

Bottom line: Effective run blocker who never has had ideal athletic ability. Also has lost some mobility because of age. **GRADE: 6.5**

T70. Ryan Young, Texans

6-5 320 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has great size and strength. Has long arms, gets good separation and has a nice punch when he establishes contact. Can move the pile in the running game. Has the strength and power to handle bull rushers.

Weaknesses: Does not have quick feet. Lacks range in pass protection. Will struggle in space. Does not always take great angles to the ball.

Bottom line: Can dominate most power players at his position. Should be a cornerstone of the line for years. **GRADE: 6.5**

T75. Roger Chanoine, Browns

6-4 295 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Is difficult to get around because of his size and arm length. Can mirror and slide and keep quicker defenders in front of him. Takes adequate angles and has decent range. Has OK feet and knows how to use his hands to ward off blockers.

Weaknesses: Needs to work on run-blocking technique. Needs to stay on feet and off ground. Needs to add bulk and ability to anchor. Has little explosiveness off the line. Makes some mental mistakes.

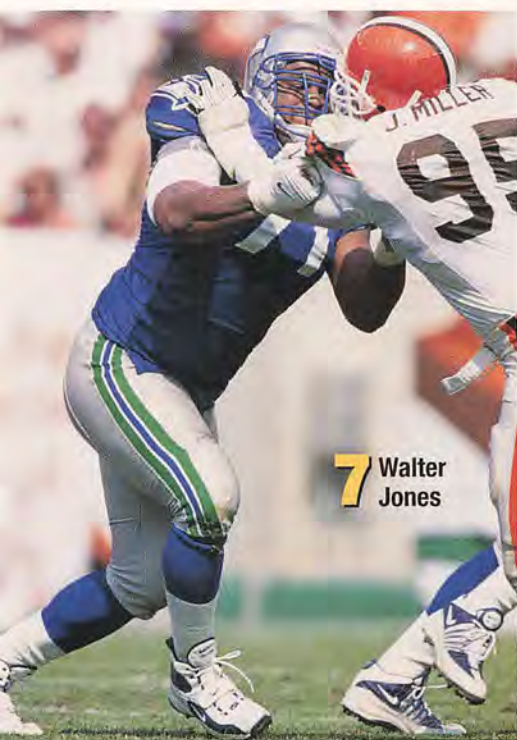
Bottom line: Can contribute off the bench in some run-blocking situations but is not equipped to be a full-time starter. **GRADE: 6.4**

T75. Brian Crawford, Vikings

6-6 324 Age: 25 1st year

Strengths: Possesses great size and strength. Is good at the point of attack and shows ability to move the pile in the running game. Has good short set in pass protection. Plays with a mean streak.

Weaknesses: Has poor change of direction skills. Not very good at pulling and trapping. A bit of a leaner. Needs to do a better job of keeping head up. Does not have good footwork.



7 Walter Jones

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

Bottom line: Could get playing time because of the Vikings' thin ranks at tackle.

GRADE: 6.4

T75. Spencer Folau, Saints

6-5 300 Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has adequate size and feet. Plays with good balance and leverage. Able to get out of his stance quickly.

Weaknesses: Lacks strength at the point of attack. Does not take great angles. Gets knocked back off his feet too often. Is not strong enough in the running or passing games.

Bottom line: Lack of strength prevents him from being a full-time starting left tackle; better suited as a backup or emergency fill-in.

GRADE: 6.4

T75. John Jackson, Bengals

6-6 300 Age: 37 15th year

Strengths: Has impeccable fundamentals. Never makes a mental miscue. Finishes blocks. Takes excellent angles. Has good size and moves the pile in the running game.

Weaknesses: Is an aging player. Lacks ideal quickness. Cannot move well laterally. Has trouble redirecting in pass protection. Struggles adjusting to the blitz.

Bottom line: Is intelligent and experienced. A quality reserve who no longer has the mobility to be an effective starter.

GRADE: 6.4

T75. Waverly Jackson, Colts

6-2 343 Age: 29 5th year

Strengths: Has good size. Gets good pop at the point of attack. Has the lower-body strength to move the pile in the running game. Has some starting experience.

Weaknesses: Is a liability in pass protection, where he must develop his technique. Must improve body control.

Bottom line: An experienced reserve who provides quality depth but would struggle if forced into the starting lineup.

GRADE: 6.4

T75. Adrian Klemm, Patriots

6-3 312 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is a terrific natural athlete. Has good feet and can mirror and slide. Has good pass protection skills.

Weaknesses: Can be overpowered by bull rushers and stronger players. Lacks lower body strength and explosion. Staying healthy has been a problem.

Bottom line: Is a solid backup.

GRADE: 6.4

T75. Pete Pierson, free agent

6-5 315 Age: 31 7th year

Strengths: Is a good athlete. Can alter his path while pass blocking. Has quick feet and plays with balance.

Weaknesses: Lacks the strength and leg drive to get adequate movement in the running game. Plays too soft. Has trouble against bigger defensive ends who have power moves.

Bottom line: Is not strong enough to start but provides quality depth because of experience and athletic ability. Dependable on special teams.

GRADE: 6.4

T75. Marcus Spriggs, Dolphins

6-3 315 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has great size and shows the lower-body strength to excel in the running game. Works to finish blocks. Plays with above-average leverage. Is versatile enough to play guard or tackle.

Weaknesses: Is not overly athletic. Lacks ideal instincts. Shows a good base in pass protection. Struggles against speed coming off the edge and with pass rushers who have the moves or power to work back inside.

Bottom line: Is an adequate reserve tackle because of size and power, but he might be better at guard.

GRADE: 6.4

T75. Grant Williams, Patriots

6-7 320 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has massive size. Gets good push and can move a pile. Does a good job as a blocker in the running game.

Weaknesses: Lacks athletic ability. Does not have good foot speed. Needs to improve as a pass protector. Can be beaten off the edge and will struggle to recover. Does not play with great lower body strength.

Bottom line: A solid backup who would be in over his head as a starter.

GRADE: 6.4

T84. Chris Boher, Giants

6-5 305 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent size and adequate footwork. Plays under control. Uses quickness to get a deep set in the passing game.

Weaknesses: Lacks the lower body strength to move defenders in the running game and to anchor against bull rushers in the passing game. Must use his hands better to create separation.

Bottom line: Is fighting for the starting job but lacks ideal strength. Eventually will be replaced by rookie Jeff Hatch.

GRADE: 6.3

T84. Todd Fordham, Jaguars

6-5 315 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has adequate run-blocking ability. Works to finish the play.

Weaknesses: Is not a good athlete and gives up sacks in bunches. Has trouble with quick pass rushers and cannot turn and run with an edge rusher. Has slow feet.

Bottom line: Reserve who should start only when it can't be avoided. Right tackle is the best place to hide his many athletic deficiencies.

GRADE: 6.3

T84. Aaron Gibson, Cowboys

6-6 380 Age: 24 4th year

Strengths: Has the size, strength and quickness to develop into a dominant run blocker, and the body control and foot quickness to redirect in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Has had difficulty keeping his weight in check, which has led to injuries and him wearing down late in games. No longer shows pop at line of scrimmage or the quick pass set he had earlier in his career.

Bottom line: Is a reserve who has failed to realize his awesome potential.

GRADE: 6.3

T84. Mike Rosenthal, Giants

6-7 315 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has a wide wingspan and does a nice job of riding defensive ends past the pocket. Effective blocking straight ahead in the running game or anchoring in the passing game.

Weaknesses: Inconsistent. Comes out of his stance too high at times and looks stiff at other times. Loses balance in pass protection. Doesn't show the ability to redirect inside.

Bottom line: Reserve right tackle who can be dominating at the point of attack but lacks ideal athletic ability and must improve technique.

GRADE: 6.3

T84. Cameron Spikes, Rams

6-2 323 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is athletic for and has good footwork. Plays with balance and has good body control. Can get beyond the line. Sets up quickly in a three-step-drop. Able to shuffle laterally.

Weaknesses: Does not have great lower-body strength and does not show the ability to anchor himself against a bull rush.

Bottom line: Big, athletic backup who has not gotten much experience.

GRADE: 6.3

T84. Jamain Stephens, Bengals

6-6 340 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has explosive first step and excellent initial pop at the point of attack. Is versatile enough to play guard and tackle.

Moves well for his size. Blocks the moving target.

Weaknesses: Is extremely inconsistent. Technique is not great. Is a better athlete than football player.

Bottom line: Versatile reserve who has good combination of size and speed but does not play with leverage.

GRADE: 6.3

T90. Char-ron Dorsey, Cowboys

6-6 347 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has better footwork than his

massive size would indicate. Is in better playing shape after losing weight. Is a capable pass protector with long arms, a quick set and wide frame. Is becoming tougher mentally and physically.

Weaknesses: Would benefit from losing even more weight. Wears down late in games. Lacks an explosive first step. Doesn't change directions well.

Bottom line: Is a reserve tackle who continues to improve but needs to keep his weight down. **GRADE: 6.2**

T90. Jason Mathews, Titans

6-5 304 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: An experienced veteran. Shows excellent overall footwork. Shows the ability to move the pile in the running game. Is versatile enough to play both sides and has good starting experience.

Weaknesses: Does not show great instincts or take good blocking angles. Is not a very intense player. Is aging and his natural tools are declining.

Bottom line: Is a quality reserve because he has good experience and is capable of playing on either side. **GRADE: 6.2**

T90. Mathias Nkwenti, Steelers

6-3 300 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: An athletic player who appears faster on field than he is. Has a strong work ethic. Has good upper-body strength. Has decent feet and moves well.

Weaknesses: Lacks experience. Needs to add bulk. Lacks power and is not physical enough vs. power two-gap defenders.

Bottom line: A raw player who could benefit by moving to guard to utilize his movement skills. Still is in developmental phase. Needs time and reps to learn more NFL nuances. **GRADE: 6.2**

T93. Barrett Brooks, Broncos

6-4 326 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to play on either side. Shows the ability to redirect in pass protection. Will work to sustain blocks. Has extensive NFL starting experience.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent. Will need some time to re-adjust to the speed of the game after not playing last season. Does not play with great technique or leverage. Needs to improve footwork and balance.

Bottom line: Is a valued reserve but is far from reliable or consistent enough to be counted as a starter. **GRADE: 6.1**

T93. Melvin Tuten, Panthers

6-7 320 Age: 30 6th year

Strengths: Has good size and adequate overall mobility. Shows the ability to get to the corner and play with balance in pass protection. Has good feet and change of direction skills. Is athletic in space.

Weaknesses: Struggles with bigger, more physical defensive linemen. Lacks lower-body strength. Will lose battles at the point of attack. Has inconsistent technique. Tends to make critical errors.

Bottom line: A lifetime backup who shows little room for improvement. Has stayed

healthy throughout his career but lacks the strength and overall skill of a starter. **GRADE: 6.1**

T95. Lewis Kelly, Vikings

6-4 306 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Possesses great combination of size, athletic ability and speed. Explodes off the ball and will work to win with his first step. Has quickness and agility.

Weaknesses: Lacks the fundamentals and feel for the game. Has average strength and does not show the ability to move the pile in the running game. If beaten off the snap, cannot recover.

Bottom line: First-year starter who needs to add polish to his game and improve technique. Has the size and athletic ability to succeed at this level. **GRADE: 6.0**

T95. Jason Thomas, Ravens

6-3 300 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and movement. Can play in space and advance deep into defense.

Weaknesses: Is not a power player. Does not dominate in the running game. Often fails to finish plays. Struggles to hold up at the point of attack.

Bottom line: Versatile player who will back up all five positions on the line because of a lack of depth. Could end up a starter at some point at guard or center. **GRADE: 6.0**

T97. Cooper Carlisle, Broncos

6-5 295 Age: 25 3rd year

Can play tackle or guard but must improve his consistency and strength. **GRADE: 5.9**

T97. Jumbo Elliott, Jets

6-7 305 Age: 37 14th year

Has the experience and approach to be an excellent mentor. Is more of an on-field coach at this stage of his career. **GRADE: 5.9**

T97. Dan Goodspeed, Jets

6-6 300 Age: 25 1st year

Developmental player who shows excellent lateral mobility and good quickness but needs to improve overall feel for the position. Likely never will be a dominant run blocker. **GRADE: 5.9**

T97. Willie Jones, Chiefs

6-6 358 Age: 26 4th year

Massive player who overwhelms defenders with his size, but has raw skills and lacks great athleticism and quickness. **GRADE: 5.9**

T97. Max Lane, Texans

6-6 320 Age: 31 8th year

Could back up at tackle or guard but is in the twilight of his career, and natural skills are on the decline. **GRADE: 5.9**

T97. Steve Neal, Patriots

6-4 290 Age: 25 1st year

Former Olympic wrestler has outstanding speed and quickness but is raw as a football player. Don't be surprised if the Patriots use him at tight end in some two-tight end sets where he could block on the edge. **GRADE: 5.9**

T97. Marcus Price, Bills

6-4 314 Age: 30 5th year

Reserve who has good size and strength but does not play with leverage. Has a hard time keeping weight down and lacks mobility. Underachiever. **GRADE: 5.9**

T97. Daryl Terrell, Jaguars

6-5 296 Age: 27 3rd year

Reserve who has excellent work ethic and starting experience. Lacks great size and is not dominant in any area. **GRADE: 5.9**

T97. Patrick Venzke, Jaguars

6-6 308 Age: 27 1st year

Has good short-area run blocking skills, but slow feet make him a liability as a pass protector. **GRADE: 5.9**

T97. Jerry Wisne, Texans

6-6 315 Age: 25 3rd year

Started off strong as a hard-nosed tackle for the Bears but has been a nonfactor since and is not a great athlete. **GRADE: 5.9**

T97. Pork Chop Womack, Seahawks

6-4 330 Age: 23 2nd year

A big mauler who can dominate in the run game but must improve agility and quickness to find success. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Dave Costa, 49ers

6-5 307 Age: 24 2nd year

Backup right tackle has great size and power but lacks durability. Needs to improve technique. **GRADE: 5.8**

T108. Scott Sanderson, Saints

6-6 295 Age: 27 5th year

Never has been able to bring his game to the next level. Has the feet and athletic ability but has maintained weight. Loses too many physical battles in the running and passing games. **GRADE: 5.8**

T110. Jarvis Borum, Cardinals

6-7 324 Age: 23 2nd year

Has the size and strength to play right tackle but must improve his technique, especially his footwork. **GRADE: 5.7**

T110. Jon Carman, Bills

6-7 329 Age: 26 2nd year

Reserve who does a good job of locking onto the defender and uses hands well. Lacks the base to be an effective run blocker and the athletic ability to block the moving target or be effective in pass protection. **GRADE: 5.7**

T110. Adam Haayer, Titans

6-6 301 Age: 25 2nd year

Has struggled to make the transition to the NFL, lacks great athletic ability and might be a better fit at guard. **GRADE: 5.7**

T110. Gannon Shepherd, Falcons

6-7 308 Age: 25 1st year

Has excellent size and could develop into an effective backup with improved strength but likely will make bigger contribution on special teams. **GRADE: 5.7**

T110. Marques Sullivan, Bills

6-5 320 Age: 24 2nd year

Developmental player who has size and good overall ability but must work on footwork, consistency and technique. **GRADE: 5.7**

T115. Damion Cook, Bears

6-5 315 Age: 23 2nd year

Massive player who can dominate in the running game when he gets into position, but he doesn't move well. Is raw and needs time to develop. **GRADE: 5.6**

T115. Tutan Reyes, Saints

6-3 299 Age: 24 3rd year

Has enough athletic ability, upper-body strength and versatility to develop into a solid backup. Does not

have the size, strength or mobility in space to become a starter.

GRADE: 5.6

117. Dave Kadela, Falcons

6-6 294

Age: 24 1st year

Poor depth at tackle will allow him to keep a job as the Falcons' last offensive lineman, but he lacks great physical qualities and always will be a fringe player.

GRADE: 5.5

T118. Michael Cook, Cardinals

6-4 333

Age: 24 2nd year

Seems to lack the footwork and overall athletic ability to play in the NFL. Struggles when pass blocking on an island.

GRADE: 5.4

T118. Dennis Norman, Seahawks

6-5 307

Age: 22 2nd year

A developmental player who has upside because of his mobility. Must add bulk and become more comfortable in the Seattle offense.

GRADE: 5.4

T120. Kris Farris, Bills

6-8 318

Age: 25 2nd year

Reserve who has excellent size and adequate overall ability but has not been able to stay healthy or develop.

GRADE: 5.3

T120. Ryan Schau, Texans

6-6 300

Age: 26 4th year

Can hit a moving target and has good hands. Is not a great overall athlete or power player. Can play every position on the line and should become a quality backup.

GRADE: 5.3

122. Jimmy Herndon, Texans

6-8 318

Age: 29 7th year

His skills are more suited for right tackle. If Tony Boselli is out, Herndon's lack of athleticism is not comforting in the role of protecting quarterback David Carr's back side.

GRADE: 4.8

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Bryant McKinnie, Vikings

6-8 343

Miami (Fla.), 1st round

Strengths: Is massive and can be dominating at the point of attack. Is able to engulf defenders by using size and strength. Has a rare combination of size and athletic ability. Surprisingly quick for his size and shows good body control.

Weaknesses: Lacks elite weight-room strength and needs to improve at fundamentals to reach his full potential. Comes out of his stance too high at times and needs to play with better leverage at this level.

Bottom line: Has a chance to become one of the best tackles in the league. Must work on technique and dedicate himself to conditioning.

GRADE: 9.8

2. Mike Williams, Bills

6-6 370

Texas, 1st round

Strengths: Has outstanding size and athleticism. Is dominant in the running game and has improved pass-protection skills. Gets off the ball well, plays with good leverage and shows the flexible hip movement to get a good burst and push out of anchored stance.

Weaknesses: Occasionally overextends and loses balance. Has better lower-body strength

than upper-body strength and can bend his knees and anchor against bull rushers.

Bottom line: The plan is to keep him at right tackle, where he played in college. Could play on the left side in the future. Has enough size, quickness and athleticism to make the transition without much of a problem.

GRADE: 9.6

3. Mike Pearson, Jaguars

6-7 304

Florida, 2nd round

Strengths: Has a great attitude and a tremendous work ethic. Is an explosive player who plays with leverage. Shows good body control and balance. Has a mean streak. Displays great footwork. Uses hands well and does an excellent job of forcing edge rushers wide.

Weaknesses: Is not overpowering. Has some problems against bull rushers and sometimes has trouble anchoring at the point of attack.

Bottom line: The Jaguars are counting on him to learn the left tackle position quickly and to play early.

GRADE: 9.2

4. Levi Jones, Bengals

6-5 304

Arizona State, 1st round

Strengths: Has an outstanding combination of size, quickness and power. Moves well in the open field. Can reach linebackers.

Impressive upper- and lower-body strength. Has size and strength to hold up against bull rushers. Has footwork to redirect second moves in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Takes poor angles. Occasionally plays without a base. Doesn't always finish blocks.

Bottom line: Could push for playing time but needs time to develop technique before making an impact.

GRADE: 8.8

5. Marc Colombo, Bears

6-7 313

Boston College, 1st round

Strengths: Is tall and has a wide frame. Plays with a mean streak, is relentless in approach and works to finish blocks. Shows good upper-body power and keeps good separation with a hard punch.

Weaknesses: Must add lower-body strength and bulk. Has trouble pushing the pile or anchoring against bull rushers at times.

Bottom line: Has the potential to develop into a quality starting left tackle once he gains experience and improves strength.

GRADE: 8.3

6. Terrence Metcalf, Bears

6-3 318

Mississippi, 3rd round

Strengths: Is massive and strong. Is physical at the point of attack and shows good leg drive as a run blocker. Has the feet to get into position and moves the pile. Did not allow a sack as a senior and shows a good hand punch.

Weaknesses: Lacks the quickness to handle faster edge rushers. Has trouble adjusting to double moves. Lacks consistent leverage and comes out of his stance too high. Looks a bit sluggish at times.

Bottom line: College tackle who is better suited to play inside in the NFL because he's

better at run blocking than pass protecting.

GRADE: 8.1

7. Victor Rogers, Lions

6-6 331

Colorado, 7th round

Gets off the ball quickly but lowers his head and bends at the waist in pass protection. Had seven ankle and knee injuries in 16 months. Eventually could become the backup right tackle.

GRADE: 7.8

8. Joaquin Gonzalez, Browns

6-3 293

Miami (Fla.), 7th round

Former college walk-on has improved every year and still has room to add bulk and strength, but upside is limited. Work ethic and intelligence make up for some physical and athletic limitations.

GRADE: 7.2

9. Kevin Shaffer, Falcons

6-5 290

Tulsa, 7th round

Reserve who is a better pass blocker than run blocker, has good athletic ability and is versatile enough to play guard. Will struggle to make an impact until he shows improved power at the point of attack.

GRADE: 6.8

10. Matt Hill, Seahawks

6-6 300

Boise State, 5th round

A developmental prospect. With proper coaching, he eventually could push for a starting job in Seattle but is a backup for now.

GRADE: 6.3

11. Melvin Paige, Redskins

6-5 304

South Carolina, undrafted free agent

Has excellent size, speed and strength but must improve work ethic and consistency.

GRADE: 6.2

12. Langston Walker, Raiders

6-8 344

California, 2nd round

Must improve pass protection techniques and footwork but has size and power to dominate.

GRADE: 5.5

13. Reggie Coleman, Redskins

6-5 315

Tennessee, 6th round

Has good strength and size but never translated it into production in college. Must improve pass protection skills.

GRADE: 5.4

14. Artis Hicks, Eagles

6-4 303

Memphis, undrafted free agent

Developmental player who has good footwork, size and strength. He should provide depth but is lazy at times and inconsistent.

GRADE: 4.6

15. Jeff Hatch, Giants

6-6 302

Pennsylvania, 3rd round

Has excellent size and gets out of his stance quickly. Will challenge for playing time at left tackle. Must improve ability to redirect in pass protection.

GRADE: 3.7

T16. Matt Anderle, Chargers

6-6 327

Minnesota, 6th round

Is a former defensive lineman whose skills as an offensive lineman are raw. It might be a few years before he is ready to play.

GRADE: 3.0

T16. Steve Edwards, Eagles

6-5 355

Central Florida, undrafted free agent

Has excellent size but must improve muscle tone, mobility and competitiveness.

GRADE: 3.0

T16. Tyson Walter, Cowboys

6-4 303

Ohio State, 6th round

Has adequate size, a quick first step and good footwork, but there are durability and character concerns.

GRADE: 3.0

good size and a very strong upper body. Plays with a good base and leverage. Aggressive at the point of attack and wins most battles once locked on. Shows the ability to anchor against the bull rush in pass protection. Has good footwork and technique.

Weaknesses: Is not a tremendous overall athlete and occasionally will miss moving targets. Struggles to change direction in pass protection and lacks ideal lateral movement. Has occasional problems picking up blitzes.

Bottom line: A two-time Pro Bowl player who consistently performs at a high level. Though not the most physically gifted lineman, he is extremely efficient and durable.

GRADE: 8.2

5. Leonard Davis, Cardinals

6-6 370 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: A massive player who has great mobility. Has the overall strength to push the pile in the running game and works to finish the block. Has a wide frame and dominates in traffic in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Lacks good mirror and slide ability. Plays without balance and overextends too much. Must improve overall lateral movement and footwork.

Bottom line: Shows the potential to develop into a dominating edge player. Should take over at left tackle within the next two seasons if he improves balance and lateral movement in pass protection.

GRADE: 7.9

T6. Marco Rivera, Packers

6-4 310 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Wins a lot of battles with explosive punch and has good initial pop at the point of attack. Drives legs, works to finish blocks and shows the ability to move a pile. Plays with a mean streak. Is extremely consistent and reliable. Shows a quick set and adequate short-area quickness in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal athleticism and struggles when forced to pull, trap or block moving targets at the second level.

Bottom line: Is one of the more efficient guards in the league. Has excellent lower- and upper-body strength and can dominate at the point of attack.

GRADE: 7.8

T6. Rex Tucker, Bears

6-5 315 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good height and has added bulk. Can engulf defensive tackles at the point of attack. Is technically sound, takes good angles to blocks and plays with a mean streak. Is adept on pulls. Has long arms and does a nice job of keeping separation.

Weaknesses: Lack of initial quickness is a concern. Has most trouble working against one-gap tackles who can get upfield quickly.

Bottom line: A great fit at left guard for the Bears and should continue to improve.

GRADE: 7.8

8. Pete Kendall, Cardinals

6-5 294 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Crafty player who has good feet and balance. Gets good leverage and positioning in the running game.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have great strength and will not win a lot of battles with pure size or power. Has had problems staying healthy.

Bottom line: Experienced starter who has ideal size, quickness and intelligence. But the injuries are starting to add up.

GRADE: 7.7

T9. Dave Fiore, 49ers

6-4 290 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has good natural athleticism, sets quickly and is able to slide well in pass protection. Is quick out of his stance, takes good angles on blocks and uses sound technique. Shows the ability to consistently block moving targets beyond the line of scrimmage. Is fundamentally sound.

Weaknesses: Lacks the bulk and lower-body strength to get consistent movement in the running game. Struggles against bigger tackles.

Bottom line: Former left tackle lacks the ideal power and size of a guard but has the quick feet, athleticism, versatility and intelligence to be an effective starter.

GRADE: 7.6

T9. John Welbourn, Eagles

6-5 318 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Shows an explosive first step and good overall footwork. Does a good job of sliding in pass protection and shows good lateral mobility. Takes very good angles to blocks in the running game and does a good job of getting into position and walling off.

Weaknesses: Does not have great strength or bulk. Struggles at times to anchor against the bull rush and doesn't always create the necessary surge in the running game.

Bottom line: An athletic and quick converted tackle who is developing into a superior interior lineman. A good fit in the Eagles' scheme who fulfills his assignments.

GRADE: 7.6

T11. Alan Faneca, Steelers

6-5 305 Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Is tough, strong and aggressive player who has tremendous work ethic, power and quickness. Comes off the ball hard, plays with leverage and is excellent as a short-area pass blocker. Can pull and trap,

shows great effort on second level and finishes blocks. A lock-on type player who overpowers defenders at point of attack.

Weaknesses: Not a great overall athlete. Takes poor angles at times and out of position due to overly aggressive play. Will struggle with a quick defensive tackle when forced to change directions.

Bottom line: Is getting better with age. Has better quickness than most think but succeeds because of instincts, toughness and strength. Takes pride in playing at a high level each week.

GRADE: 7.5

T11. Kerry Jenkins, Buccaneers

6-5 305 Age: 29 5th year

Strengths: Shows nice footwork, even in tight confines. Pass-blocking skills have improved. Contributes most in the power running game. Uses size and strength to maul defenders and win one-on-one matchups in the run game.

Weaknesses: Lacks great range. Struggles with blocking linebackers. Has trouble dealing with double moves. Lacks good change of direction ability.

Bottom line: Still is learning how to play the guard position, he will improve with experience on the job.

GRADE: 7.5

T11. Brad Meester, Jaguars

6-3 308 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Does a nice job pulling and trapping and is excellent at blocking in space. Maintains balance. Does not overextend and has terrific range. Can handle a lot different pass-rush moves.

Weaknesses: Is not a power player in the running game and gets a little high in his stance at times.

Bottom line: Does not dominate in terms of power and explosiveness but gets the job done. Probably is the Jaguars' most consistent offensive lineman.

GRADE: 7.5

T14. Mark Dixon, Dolphins

6-4 300 Age: 31 5th year

Strengths: Has good blend of quickness and power. Is an efficient blocker and equally effective in the running game and pass protection. Has outstanding instincts and makes the players around him better. Shows good footwork and technique.

Weaknesses: Has lost some strength with age, and a fractured fibula suffered last season could limit his mobility. Never has had great balance and spends too much time on the ground. Must play with a better base.

Bottom line: Still is an effective starter, and the Dolphins clearly have a better line when he plays.

GRADE: 7.4

ON THE RISE: Leonard Davis, Cardinals

He must develop his technique and instincts, but Davis, a second-year pro, is capable of becoming a Pro Bowl player.

ON THE DECLINE: Mark Dixon, Dolphins

Dixon is considered the Dolphins' best offensive lineman, but he is aging and is coming off of a serious leg injury. Expect him to struggle this season.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Tre' Johnson, Browns

He has the size, strength and aggressiveness to be a dominant run blocker, but he cannot stay healthy and, as a result, has been just an adequate starter.

BEST RUN BLOCKER: Ron Stone, 49ers

He has the power and technique of a solid run blocker, but it is his footwork and ability to block linebackers on the move that set him apart from the rest.

BEST PASS BLOCKER: Randy Thomas, Jets

He has the size and base to anchor against the bull rush and, more important, the quickness and lateral mobility to handle quicker, more active defensive tackles.

MOST ATHLETIC: Steve McKinney, Texans

He does not have great size or strength but can change directions quickly when making blocks in space. He does a great job moving his feet in pass protection.

Baseball



www.baseballroadtrips.com/tsn

Football



www.footballroadtrips.com/tsn

Basketball



www.basketballroadtrips.com/tsn

Hockey



www.hockeyroadtrips.com/tsn

Racing



www.racingroadtrips.com/tsn

Whether it's baseball, football, basketball, hockey or racing our staff can help you develop a travel itinerary that includes any number of days, games and places. Our experience and personal service will make your trip easy and hassle-free.

Sports Travel presents

The Sporting News Road Trips

See a different game!

There isn't an easier way to get to all the great ballparks and exciting ball games you've been planning to see!

Your **Sporting News® Baseball Road Trip** includes tickets to ball games, hotel accommodations, transportation to games and between cities, tour host, reception, souvenir, and more!

Here are 3 of the 15 itineraries available:

EAST COAST SAMPLER

- Fenway Park
- Baseball Hall of Fame
- Yankee Stadium
- Camden Yards

WINDY CITY PLUS

- Comiskey Park
- Wrigley Field
- Miller Park
- Busch Stadium

WEST COAST EXPRESS

- Safeco Field
- Network Associates Coliseum
- Pacific Bell Park
- Dodger Stadium
- Qualcomm Stadium
- Bank One Ballpark
- Coors Field

Spring Training
Hall of Fame Induction
All-Star Game
Playoffs/Series



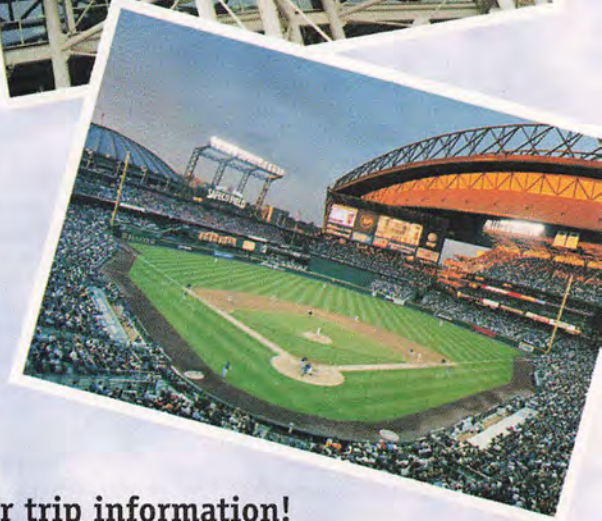
Call for trip information!

888-TSN-0107

www.baseballroadtrips.com/tsn

Any Game...Any Place...Any Time!™

Sports Travel, Inc. operates **Sporting News®** Road Trips.



T14. Steve Hutchinson, Seahawks

6-5 311 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size. Shows good strength at the point of attack. Gets good explosion off the snap and shows tremendous initial pop. Has more than enough strength to be dominant. Is very quick.

Weaknesses: Lacks great straight-line speed. Doesn't necessarily have great skills. Will struggle if left on the edge. Tends to have some trouble in space and with blitzes and stunts.

Bottom line: A dominating run blocker and efficient pass protector. Shows the potential to develop quickly into one of the NFL's better interior offensive linemen. **GRADE: 7.4**

T14. Randy Thomas, Jets

6-4 301 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Plays with good leverage. Works to finish blocks. Is a good athlete and can make blocks in space. Has great strength and power to get movement at the point of attack. Can pull and trap quickly.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent and lacks great awareness. Must improve at recognizing and picking up line stunts and blitzes. Has been bothered by a nagging shoulder injury.

Bottom line: Has yet to join the upper echelon of guards but continues to improve. Has the size, strength and athletic ability to develop into one of the best in the league. **GRADE: 7.4**

T14. Mike Wahle, Packers

6-6 310 Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Has good strength and an explosive first step. Can move the pile in the running game. Does an adequate job of blocking moving targets at the second level. Plays with good leverage for his size.

Weaknesses: Ability to mirror and slide in passing game is limited. Doesn't have ideal mobility and struggles with quicker, penetrating defensive tackles. Frequently needs help on blitzes and stunts.

Bottom line: A mauling starter who has excellent size and can dominate at point of attack in the running game. Struggles at times in pass protection but has enough athletic ability to get by and is improving. **GRADE: 7.4**

T14. Brian Waters, Chiefs

6-3 315 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: An excellent technician who shows good athletic ability and mobility. Is solid in open space. Plays with a natural knee bend. Can block the moving target beyond the line of scrimmage. Can mirror and stay with a defender. Puts himself in proper position to make blocks.

Weaknesses: Struggles to handle two-gap power players and is learning on the job. **Bottom Line:** Finished 2001 season with a nice flourish. A former tight end who continues to improve and show good things since settling into this job. **GRADE: 7.4**

T19. Cosey Coleman, Buccaneers

6-4 322 Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Goes hard right from the snap



Adam Timmerman
4

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

and with good leverage. Has a strong initial pop and the power to dominate in the run game. Uses hands well to keep separation. Has a quick, short set when pass blocking.

Weaknesses: Must improve angles and overall mobility. Tends to make mental mistakes. Doesn't play with good balance.

Bottom line: An adequate full-time starter at right guard last season who should improve with experience. Has the potential to be one of the better guards in the NFL. **GRADE: 7.3**

T19. David Dixon, Vikings

6-5 359 Age: 33 9th year

Strengths: Possesses rare size and speed combination. Is a tough, physical player with great upper body strength. Uses sound fundamentals to make blocks. Plays with a mean-streak. Instinctive player who knows assignments.

Weaknesses: Is not great in space and will struggle to block the moving target at the second level. Will play top heavy and is a bit of a waist-bender. Tends to lunge at blocks. Does not pick up the blitz well. Is not very explosive and age is becoming a factor.

Bottom line: Starter who has incredible awareness and plays the game with intensity and toughness. Lacks ideal athletic ability. **GRADE: 7.3**

T19. Dan Neil, Broncos

6-2 285 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Always is working to finish or sustain blocks. Is aggressive. Will do whatever it takes to win. Shows a good initial punch. Excels at blocking the moving target. Is an excellent leader on the field.

Weaknesses: Biggest weakness is lack of size. Will overextend at times in pass protection. Can't ride the defender past the pocket.

Bottom line: If he can learn to play with more discipline, eliminate costly penalties and develop better technique in pass protection, he'll be one of the NFL's better guards. **GRADE: 7.3**

T19. Will Shields, Chiefs

6-3 311 Age: 30 10th year

Strengths: Is a good athlete. Plays with power and leverage. Does an excellent job of neutralizing power rushers. Has great lower-body strength and leg drive. Can drive defenders back off the snap. Can dominate at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Tends to fall out of shape during the offseason and to start the season slowly. Seems to lack some passion and aggressiveness.

Bottom line: Six-time Pro Bowl player has a great reputation plus enough experience and skills to play well enough even when his effort is not 100 percent. Is inconsistent and somewhat overrated in NFL circles. **GRADE: 7.3**

T19. Brenden Stai, Lions

6-4 312 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Can dominate defensive tackles at times and is durable. Creates separation, plays with good leverage and has enough lower-body strength to sustain blocks. Sets up quickly in the passing game.

Weaknesses: Has difficulty getting beyond the line of scrimmage. Can't block moving targets. Struggles to change direction quickly in pass protection.

Bottom line: Starter who can dominate in the running game but lacks the athleticism and pass-protection skills to excel in this scheme. **GRADE: 7.3**

T24. Kevin Donnalley, Panthers

6-5 310 Age: 34 12th year

Strengths: Has good bulk and will play with leverage. Is strong at the point of attack in the running game. Will work to sustain blocks and is a tough, physical player. Will play with balance and will not overextend.

Weaknesses: Lacks great mobility. Has poor overall speed and struggles on pulls and traps. Struggles against quicker defensive tackles in pass protection. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Is not the most naturally talented guard and clearly is on the downside of his career. If healthy, is the best guard on the Panthers' roster in the short-term. Should be back to full strength after knee surgery. **GRADE: 7.2**

T24. Tom Nutton, Rams

6-5 304 Age: 31 6th year

Strengths: Plays with leverage and establishes position well. Has adequate quickness and takes tremendous angles. Is relentless at the point of attack. Plays with balance and rarely lunges in pass protection. Sets up quickly and does an adequate job in the short area. **Weaknesses:** Struggles to block moving targets beyond the line. Does not have the

lower-body strength to push the pile in the running game. Lacks overall athleticism.

Bottom line: Starter who is aging and lacks ideal strength and mobility but remains an intelligent technician capable of being effective.

GRADE: 7.2

T24. Zach Piller, Titans

6-5 315

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good size, plays with a mean streak and is aggressive. Does a good job of getting his hands onto the defender. Is a hard worker who is always working to sustain his blocks. Does a good job of recognizing and picking up the blitz.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal lower body strength and will struggle anchoring against the bull rush. Has had problems staying healthy. Lacks speed.

Bottom line: Is coming off a down season but if he improves his overall instincts, he should have a productive year in his first season as a full-time starter.

GRADE: 7.2

T27. Ryan Diem, Colts

6-6 332

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has outstanding size. Wears down defensive linemen during the course of the game. Always works to sustain and finish blocks. Takes excellent angles to his blocks. Has good upper-body strength.

Weaknesses: Struggles to redirect defenders in pass protection. Gets caught overextending at times. Does not have ideal athleticism. Struggles against quicker, more active defensive tackles.

Bottom line: With improved footwork and pass-protection technique, he has the potential to become one of the better guards in the league.

GRADE: 7.1

T27. Barry Stokes, Browns

6-4 310

Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Has good size and plays with excellent technique. Can handle the blitz. Is an efficient player.

Weaknesses: Is not a good athlete. Will struggle in space or if left on an island. Does not contribute in the power running game.

Bottom line: A try-hard guy who has great instincts and a blue-collar mentality.

GRADE: 7.1

T27. Wally Williams, Saints

6-2 321

Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Uses size and experience well. Takes good angles to blocks. Plays with balance. Can maintain separation in pass protection. Plays with leverage in running game. Can sustain blocks.

Weaknesses: Struggles against quicker, one-gap defensive tackles. Is slow out of stance. Tends to wear down late in games. Injuries are a concern.

Bottom line: Is no longer one of the top guards in the NFL. Barely skilled and experienced enough to start. Is quickly running out of time.

GRADE: 7.1

T30. Mike Compton, Patriots

6-6 310

Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Is smart and efficient. Shows good

quickness off the ball. Has the range to get to the second level and get a body on linebackers in space. Has long enough arms to engulf a defensive lineman and is difficult to get around. Has good instincts.

Weaknesses: Is not a power player. Struggles against speed rushers. Does not do a great job of redirecting at the line of scrimmage. Double moves give him trouble.

Bottom line: His versatility, work ethic and leadership make him a valuable member of the Patriots' blue-collar line.

GRADE: 7.0

T30. Chris Dishman, Cardinals

6-3 332

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Is a classic widebody. Has great size and strength in the running game and is tough. Finishes blocks well and shows good leg drive. Has good punch and initial power in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal mobility and has trouble in space. Doesn't change direction well enough to hit moving targets past the line of scrimmage. Has trouble against quicker, one-gap defensive tackles.

Bottom line: Can dominate in the running game. Has enough initial quickness to hold up in pass protection. Is a quality backup as an interior lineman.

GRADE: 7.0

T30. Chris Gray, Seahawks

6-4 303

Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: A tactician who takes good angles on blocks and plays with balance. Shows the ability to get out of his stance low and quick. Has adequate punch at the point of attack. Keeps separation in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Lacks lower-body strength. Struggles to get set as a pass protector and can be beaten by quicker tackles. Has trouble changing directions. Overall quickness and mobility are on the decline.

Bottom line: A versatile lineman who can long snap and play center, guard and tackle. Will start at right guard this season, but the Seahawks will need to upgrade the position in 2003.

GRADE: 7.0

T30. Bob Hallen, Chargers

6-4 305

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Is experienced and dependable. Is solid fundamentally and makes few mistakes. Has a good first step and can get to linebackers quickly. Sets well in pass protection, bends knees well and has explosiveness and a strong base.

Weaknesses: Has limited overall athletic ability. Is not effective blocking in space. Lacks quickness and good feet, and will not dominate at point of attack.

Bottom line: Is a smart, productive player who has good instincts.

GRADE: 7.0

T30. Jermaine Mayberry, Eagles

6-4 325

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has the lower-body strength to get movement in the running game and rarely loses when he gets hands inside. Sets up quickly and shows the ability to slide in the short area.

Weaknesses: Lacks the ability to change directions quickly, struggles to block moving targets beyond the line of scrimmage and will come out of his stance too high at times. He is blind in one eye, which occasionally affects his blocking ability.

Bottom line: An above-average starter at right guard who has great strength and is durable. But his lack of ideal athletic ability makes him a better fit for a run-oriented scheme.

GRADE: 7.0

T30. Chris Naeole, Jaguars

6-3 313

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Is a solid straight-ahead blocker who plays with good balance.

Weaknesses: Is not a great athlete and really struggles in space. Cannot run. Does not have great hands and doesn't come out of stance very quickly.

Bottom line: A hard worker who gives his team everything he has but has limitations.

GRADE: 7.0

T30. Jamar Nesbit, Panthers

6-4 330

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Shows the ability to push the pile in the run game. Has very good overall strength. Is massive in the passing game. Shows good initial pop.

Weaknesses: Lacks overall athleticism. Feet are a concern. Struggles redirecting in pass protection. Will struggle to change directions to pick up the blitz or stunt.

Bottom line: Young and versatile. Started at both guard positions and can play center in an emergency. Could be a starter, but much better suited as a backup.

GRADE: 7.0

T37. Doug Brzezinski, Eagles

6-4 305

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Shows good initial pop and the ability to control his opponent in the running game. Has a good combination of size and strength. Displays adequate lower-body strength and works to sustain blocks. Shows the ability to anchor against bull rushes.

Weaknesses: Has trouble moving laterally and struggles with quicker tackles in pass protection. Does not show the ability to block moving targets.

Bottom line: A powerful reserve guard who should improve with experience but lacks the mobility and athletic ability to excel in the Eagles' scheme.

GRADE: 6.9

T37. Mo Collins, Raiders

6-4 335

Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Has good power. Can lock on to a defender and use brute strength to achieve success. Has natural skills and athletic ability. Plays well in a confined area.

Weaknesses: Lacks top conditioning, and this hurts his play late in games. Not comfortable working in open space and unable to block linebackers effectively. Struggles dealing with inside penetrators.

Bottom line: Raiders hope Collins excels now that he is settling into the starting job at right guard.

GRADE: 6.9

T37. Kynan Forney, Falcons

6-2 305

Age: 24 1st year

Strengths: Does a great job keeping feet and hands moving. Is a good athlete. Does a good job of getting out and hitting the moving target.

Weaknesses: Lacks great strength and size. Lacks the bulk to overpower defenders at point of attack. Unable to generate push vs. bigger defensive tackles.

Bottom line: Should benefit from experience and an offseason to add bulk and strength. Has the natural athleticism to develop into a solid starter. **GRADE: 6.9**

T37. Mike Goff, Bengals

6-5 311

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Excels at run blocking. Gets out of his stance and is ready to block quickly in the passing game. Has great size and strength. A hard worker. Shows good burst off the snap.

Weaknesses: Too heavy and sluggish. Wears down at the end of games; really wore down at the end of last season.

Bottom line: An experienced run blocker who has good strength. Would benefit from losing weight to gain quickness and lateral mobility. **GRADE: 6.9**

T37. Tre' Johnson, Browns

6-2 326

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Has great strength and will win most short-area fistfights. Is a much better run blocker than pass blocker. Works until the whistle.

Weaknesses: Injuries and lack of durability are big concerns; he played in just seven games over the past two seasons. Does not contribute in pass protection. Does not have good quickness or lateral movement. Lacks ability to protect against blitz.

Bottom line: Should be a good fit in Cleveland's grind-it-out offense this season, but retirement might be just around the corner. **GRADE: 6.9**

T37. Matt O'Dwyer, Bengals

6-5 313

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has great toughness and strength. Is a good run blocker and has an explosive first step. Has good initial quickness.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal athletic ability. Does a poor job of blocking on the move. Struggles at pulling and trapping.

Bottom line: A mauling starter who is an effective run blocker. Lack of athleticism makes him somewhat of a liability in pass protection. **GRADE: 6.9**

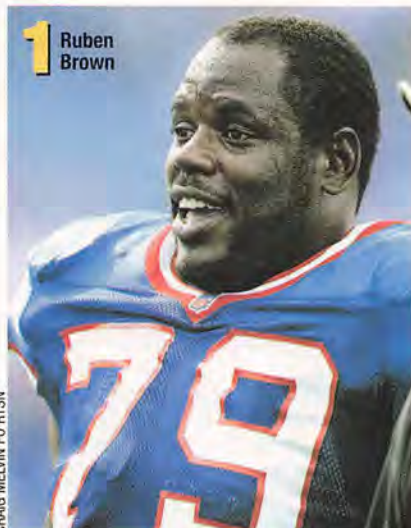
T37. Chris Villarrial, Bears

6-3 309

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has good size, bulk and upper-body strength. Is technically sound in the running game. Shows good initial pop and wins most one-on-one matchups.

Weaknesses: Is not very fluid and has trouble hitting the moving target. Lacks straight-line speed and struggles to reach the second level at times. Is not technically sound in the passing game and not a great athlete.



1 Ruben Brown

Footwork is below average.

Bottom line: Starter who consistently opens holes for the Bears' running game but is somewhat of a liability in pass protection because of a lack of mobility. **GRADE: 6.9**

T44. Travis Claridge, Falcons

6-5 300

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Will dominate most one-on-one matchups when he's in position. Has excellent lower-body strength as a run blocker. Works to finish blocks.

Weaknesses: Lacks good footwork and athleticism. Struggles to get out of stance, redirect and adjust in pass protection. Is unable to hit a moving target in second level. Will struggle when asked to pull, trap or play in space.

Bottom line: Should do an adequate job this season and get better with experience. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Kelvin Garmon, Cowboys

6-2 329

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has a wide frame, good bulk and adequate athletic ability. Plays with good balance and has the strength to win most one-on-one matchups in the running game. Shows flashes of being able to redirect in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Looks confused at times, tentative at other times and loses focus too often.

Bottom line: If he doesn't improve in the mental aspects of the game, Andre Gurode is a good bet to supplant him next season. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Jeno James, Panthers

6-3 292

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good initial quickness and has initial pop as a blocker. Is a hard worker. Will finish blocks. Shows adequate mobility in the short area.

Weaknesses: Struggles in space and also gives up a lot of size against bigger defensive tackles. Lacks speed and mobility. Doesn't play with enough leverage.

Bottom line: Is considered the No. 1 backup

at both guard positions. Has room for improvement and will make too many mistakes. Has the natural tools to become a solid starter. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Michael Keathley, Chargers

6-4 296

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is athletic, moves well and has some quickness. Is a natural knee bender and plays angles well in running game. Excels against speed rushers in passing situations; is able to mirror, slide and redirect.

Weaknesses: Lacks power. Struggles to drive big, strong linemen off the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Versatility that allows him to play center or guard makes him an asset on the Chargers' line. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Corbin Lacina, Vikings

6-4 314

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Has quickness off the snap and shows impressive overall power. Will work to the whistle and has a great motor. A good athlete for size.

Weaknesses: Plays top heavy at times. Can't block too well when on the move. Doesn't have great footwork. Lunges at blocks. Has aged and lost lateral agility.

Bottom line: Backup who has shown ability to be effective over a short term. Cannot be counted on to be a consistent producer. A much better run blocker than pass blocker. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Chris Liwinski, Vikings

6-5 321

Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Shows great overall fundamentals and instincts. Has great size and strength. Plays with a nonstop motor and always working to sustain and finish his blocks.

Weaknesses: Has little ability to change direction and shift big frame, in space, pass and run blocking. Will get beaten off the ball by quicker linemen. Moving to guard after starting at right tackle last season.

Bottom line: Starter who has good size and strength. Will be adjusting to a new position and likely will experience growing pains. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Jerry Ostroski, Bills

6-3 323

Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Is a mauler in the running game. Has good leg drive and will work to finish blocks. Rarely takes a false step; takes good angles to blocks.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal mobility and has trouble against quicker one-gap defensive tackles. Has trouble picking up stunts and blitzing linebackers.

Bottom line: Powerful interior blocker who plays with great technique and has great upper- and lower-body strength. Lacks the athletic ability to be a consistent factor at the second level. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Oliver Ross, Steelers

6-5 309

Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: A try-hard player who has valuable versatility. Has good athleticism and

outstanding speed for big man, making him effective in space. Has good pass protection skills, with ability to mirror and slide. Has good overall feet and is effective when engaging defender. Has success using speed and quickness.

Weaknesses: Is not a great technician and needs to improve fundamentals. Lacks instincts and feel for blocking schemes. Plays poor angles. Is soft at times.

Bottom line: Must improve blocking angles and ability to adjust in space. Has displayed versatility with ability to play both guard and tackle positions, but must rise to challenge as starter and will be helped by talented linemen around him. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Tony Semple, Lions

6-5 303 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Can control the point of attack when he locks on to a defender.

Weaknesses: Does not have good initial pop or the lower-body strength to sustain blocks. Lacks quickness and struggles against active defensive tackles. Is a liability in pass protection. Is unable to stay with defenders.

Bottom line: Adequate starter who lacks athleticism and mobility for this scheme. Is a better fit as a reserve. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Rich Tylski, Patriots

6-4 308 Age: 31 6th year

Strengths: Is fundamentally sound. Does a nice job of reaching the defensive tackle and walling off. Can hold his own vs. bull rushers in a short area. Takes good angles to the ball. Works hard to sustain blocks.

Weaknesses: Does not have great footwork. Tends to miss some moving targets in space. Is not a great athlete. Needs to improve ability to pull and trap.

Bottom line: Will not get a lot better at this age, but will maintain the toughness and aggressiveness of the Patriots' line. **GRADE: 6.8**

T44. Jason Whittle, Giants

6-4 305 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has good balance and initial quickness. Shows adequate strength at the point of attack. Does a nice job getting into position to make the block. Has good leg strength. Plays with a mean streak and works to finish blocks. Is also an experienced long snapper who has above-average accuracy and good zip on the ball.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent. Lacks ideal bulk and comes out of his stance too high at times.

Bottom line: Isn't as dominant a player as departed Ron Stone, but should improve with experience. **GRADE: 6.8**

T55. Frank Middleton, Raiders

6-3 330 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is a physical player who is effective in traffic. Uses power and brute force to overwhelm and handle two-gap bull rushers. Has good instincts and feel for game. Is adept at picking up the blitz.

Weaknesses: Lacks athletic ability and

range. Is not effective in open space or while trapping and pulling. Lacks foot quickness and vulnerable in pass protection to one-gap rushers.

Bottom line: A solid player who is strong enough to overcome athletic shortcomings. **GRADE: 6.7**

T55. Edwin Mulitalo, Ravens

6-3 340 Age: 28 4th year

Strengths: Is best in a short area. A big, wide-bodied player who has good power. Can wear down defenders. Is a hard worker who strives to improve.

Weaknesses: Struggles in space. Conditioning and nagging injuries are concerns. Does not show good movement or ability to change direction.

Bottom line: Never will be a great athlete or a speed guy, but can be an excellent power player. **GRADE: 6.7**

T57. Kerlin Blaise, Lions

6-5 323 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Comes off the ball hard. Gets his hands on defensive linemen and doesn't lose many one-on-one matchups in the running game. Has excellent lower-body strength.

Weaknesses: Has poor lateral movement and struggles to block moving targets beyond the line of scrimmage. Lacks technique.

Bottom line: Reserve who will push Tony Semple for playing time. Would benefit from losing weight. **GRADE: 6.6**

T57. Rick DeMulling, Colts

6-3 304 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has good athletic ability. Picks up blitzes well. Has nonstop motor. Does a good job getting downfield.

Weaknesses: Lack of upper- and lower-body strength is a concern. Lacks blocking ability in the running game. Must improve overall balance. Is inexperienced.

Bottom line: Takes the place of departed Steve McKinney. Should benefit from playing with veterans but likely will experience growing pains early. **GRADE: 6.6**

T57. Lennie Friedman, Broncos

6-3 285 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to play guard or tackle. Plays with good leverage. Will work to sustain blocks. Doesn't stop until he hears the whistle. Shows some ability to anchor against the pass rush.

Weaknesses: Does not have great athletic ability or great speed. Lacks ideal change of direction skills. Will struggle to anchor against the bull rush.

Bottom line: Is an adequate starter in the Broncos' scheme and would struggle to start for most teams. **GRADE: 6.6**

T57. Benji Olson, Titans

6-3 315 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Does a good job of using his hands and shows the lower-body strength to move the pile. Plays with a mean streak and is a fierce competitor.

Weaknesses: Does not show the ability to

block the moving target. Ends up on the ground too much. Struggles with quicker and more active defensive tackles.

Bottom line: Can be a productive starter and dominant run blocker but needs to improve his overall approach to the game. **GRADE: 6.6**

T57. Matt Stinchcomb, Raiders

6-6 310 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has tremendous size and adequate feet and quickness. Plays with good balance. Has long arms and can overwhelm a defender and create a hole by walling off an opponent.

Weaknesses: Lacks overall athletic ability. Struggles to deal with power players. Lacks explosive power. Retreats to play a finesse style at point of attack against defenders who play with power.

Bottom line: Intelligent but often injured, he doesn't play with enough power to seize the starting job. **GRADE: 6.6**

T57. Dave Szott, Jets

6-4 289 Age: 34 13th year

Strengths: Uses sound technique, experience and strength to get movement in the running game. Takes great angles to his blocks and always works to get into an ideal blocking position.

Weaknesses: Struggles to block the moving target and no longer has ideal change of direction skills. Struggles to anchor against the bull rush.

Bottom line: Was set to start at left guard, but a knee injury ended his season before it started. **GRADE: 6.6**

T63. Joe Andruzzi, Patriots

6-3 315 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Plays with a lot of pride and aggressiveness. Is a short-range player who will battle to finish blocks. Will not lose many short-area fist fights. Shows good quickness off the ball in run-blocking situations.

Weaknesses: Does not have a lot of range or great quickness in pass protection. Struggles against quicker defensive tackles.

Bottom line: Brings a toughness to the New England line that might be underrated. **GRADE: 6.5**

T63. Rod Jones, Redskins

6-5 335 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Is massive and has good strength. Is more athletic than frame would indicate and has good initial quickness. Shows flashes of being overpowering at times at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Does not move well laterally and struggles when forced to redirect in pass protection. Occasionally gets overweight and looks sluggish. Is inconsistent and appears to take plays off from time to time.

Bottom line: Is not an elite lineman but has enough experience, power and quickness to be an effective starter. **GRADE: 6.5**

T63. Jeremy McKinney, Texans

6-6 301 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Is a physical player who has

adequate athletic ability and range. Shows good effort and works to finish blocks, especially in a short area.

Weaknesses: Does not have a lot of experience and is not a great space player. Struggles at times vs. quicker defensive tackles.

Bottom line: Has adequate overall skills and will start at guard. Fought his way into the starting lineup for the Browns last season. Is still developing. **GRADE: 6.5**

T63. Bernard Robertson, Bears

6-3 308 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good speed and quickness. Shows the ability to recognize and adjust to blitzes. Is mobile, has the feet to mirror and slide and can change directions.

Weaknesses: Does not have good lower-body strength or drive in the running game. Lacks pop at the point of attack in the passing game. Can be overmatched by bigger defensive tackles.

Bottom line: Has nice versatility and athletic ability but must get stronger. **GRADE: 6.5**

T63. Leon Searcy, Dolphins

6-4 320 Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Has outstanding size. Can engulf defensive linemen at the point of attack. Plays with adequate leverage. A mauler who excels in the running game.

Weaknesses: Hasn't played in two years because of injuries. Has lost explosiveness and struggles in pass protection. Has trouble when forced to block in space and struggles to finish blocks. Effort is inconsistent and he appears to take plays off. Strength and quickness are in decline.

Bottom line: Is nearing the end of a productive career, but it's possible he has another season or two left. **GRADE: 6.5**

T63. Rich Seubert, Giants

6-5 295 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Among the better athletes at guard. Shows ability to mirror and slide with a pass-rushing defender. Plays with sound technique and is capable of beating most defensive tackles off the ball. Plays with a mean streak and works to finish blocks.

Weaknesses: Has marginal strength for an interior lineman and struggles against bigger defensive tackles. Is inexperienced. Lacks durability.

Bottom line: First-year starter who lacks ideal size and power but has the technique and explosive first step to become a productive starter with experience. **GRADE: 6.5**

T63. Kipp Vickers, Redskins

6-2 300 Age: 33 7th year

Strengths: Takes excellent angles to blocks and generally gets good position. Has adequate strength and shows ability to get movement in the running game when he plays with leverage. Is versatile enough to play tackle.

Weaknesses: Is clearly on the downside of career. Does not explode off the ball and lacks the quickness he showed earlier in career. Struggles against bigger, more

physical defenders.

Bottom line: Starter who has excellent experience but is more suited to be a backup at this point in career. **GRADE: 6.5**

T70. Bennie Anderson, Ravens

6-5 305 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Is a big, wide body. Contributes in running game. Can anchor at the point of attack. Does a nice job picking up blitzes.

Weaknesses: Has little range and struggles to play in space. Offers little help in pass protection. Doesn't have great overall movement.

Bottom line: Was forced into right guard slot in 2001 and now is the full-time starter. Will do well plugging the middle. **GRADE: 6.4**

T70. Steve Herndon, Broncos

6-4 305 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Is a smart player who takes good angles to blocks downfield. Has excellent lower-body strength. Can get movement in the running game. Plays with a mean streak.

Weaknesses: Is not dominant in any area. Does not have great athletic ability. Struggles vs. quick, active defensive tackles. Needs to play with better balance.

Bottom line: Does not seem like a good fit for the Broncos' offensive line, but who knows? Maybe he can develop into starter some day. **GRADE: 6.4**

T70. David Loverne, Redskins

6-3 299 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good bulk and moves pretty well. Shows the ability to short set in the passing game. Does a good job creating separation with good upper-body strength and a solid punch.

Weaknesses: Tends to lunge and overextend in the passing game. Lacks ideal balance and struggles to redirect back inside. Struggles in space and has trouble pulling or trying to block the moving target.

Bottom line: A mauler who excels in the interior running game but lacks the athletic ability to be effective in pass protection. Figures to struggle in Washington's pass-heavy offense. **GRADE: 6.4**

T70. Grey Ruegamer, Patriots

6-5 300 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: A smart player who is dependable. Comes off the ball well. Has good balance and the feet to wall off and maintain his position. Has good vision in blitz protection.

Weaknesses: Is not a power player. Lacks lower-body strength to hold up vs. bull rushers. Has had shoulder problems.

Bottom line: Will not get a lot better, but New England can live with his inefficiency because of his stability. **GRADE: 6.4**

T70. Keydrick Vincent, Steelers

6-5 330 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is aggressive and powerful and has impressive lower-body strength. Has good initial quickness. Plays with leverage and is an outstanding finisher. Is excellent in short area and can dominate if engaged with

defender.

Weaknesses: Is troubled by quick defensive tackles. Is exposed on island or in space because he lacks ability to adjust and redirect.

Bottom line: A mauler type who fits well in the Steelers' power game but must work on pulling and trapping. Has strong work ethic, and good size and power. **GRADE: 6.4**

T75. Darnell Alford, Chiefs

6-4 328 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is a massive and powerful force in the short area. Overwhelms defenders.

Appears to have improved his feel for the game. Can lock on and win most battles at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks speed and athleticism. Is a liability in open space and does not have a lot of range.

Bottom line: Has developed into a solid backup. Has experience at tackle, but is better suited to playing right guard against a power player. **GRADE: 6.3**

T75. Darryl Ashmore, Raiders

6-7 310 Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Big and plays with a physical style. Good power in the short area. His strength is a problem for defenders when he gets his hands on them. Works hard.

Weaknesses: Can be a liability when asked to block an athletic defender without help, especially when facing a quick, gap-rushing lineman in pass protection. Has quick feet. **Bottom line:** Knows Oakland's system and can step in at tackle or guard. **GRADE: 6.3**

T75. Brad Bedell, Browns

6-4 299 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has quick feet and moves well in space. Shows great range when blocking down the field. Shows ability to adjust and contribute vs. the blitz. Has good instincts. **Weaknesses:** Lacks great strength; can't move the pile and often will lose in a short area.

Bottom line: Has upside but must add strength to complement his quickness. In the meantime, a capable reserve. **GRADE: 6.3**

T75. Mike Gandy, Bears

6-4 304 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is aggressive and shows good pop at the point of attack. Takes good angles and plays with a mean streak. Does a nice job of quick-setting in pass protection and has the feet to mirror and slide in the short area.

Weaknesses: Has trouble against bigger bull rushers. Gives up size inside and does not have great lower-body strength.

Bottom line: Showed flashes of developing into a quality backup and eventual starter last season, but durability always is a concern. **GRADE: 6.3**

T75. Leander Jordan, Panthers

6-3 320 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has great size and natural strength. Shows the ability to drive through blocks in run game. Takes up a lot of space

on the inside.

Weaknesses: Lacks initial quickness. Will lose too many battles with a poor first step. Lacks the ability to redirect in pass protection. Tends to get out of position. Has poor awareness.

Bottom line: Lack of mobility and foot quickness will be exposed. **GRADE: 6.3**

T75. Todd Perry, Dolphins

6-5 305 Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Excels at opening holes in the running game. Can knock his opponent backward. Plays with a mean streak. Has an outstanding motor.

Weaknesses: Lacks athleticism and is inconsistent. Does not explode out of stance. Is a liability when isolated on pass protection or when working against a quicker defensive tackle.

Bottom line: Lacks the mobility and footwork in pass protection to be an effective starter but should be fine in backup role. **GRADE: 6.3**

T81. Ben Fricke, free agent

6-0 280 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Rarely gets caught out of position or makes an incorrect line call. Is quick out of stance, plays with good leverage and is stronger than size would indicate.

Weaknesses: Lacks the bulk to get movement on bigger defensive tackles in the running game. Is incapable of anchoring against the bull rush.

Bottom line: Lacks the size to be an effective starter but understands blocking assignments and has good overall athletic ability. **GRADE: 6.2**

T81. Corey Hulsey, Bills

6-4 329 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has elite natural strength in the upper and lower body. Is aggressive and plays with a mean streak.

Weaknesses: Comes out of his stance too high at times and takes false steps at other times. Takes poor angles to blocks, is poor in space and has a lot of trouble reaching the second level. Also has trouble redirecting in pass protection.

Bottom line: Developmental reserve who is a classic mauler in the running game. Lacks mobility, and technique is marginal. **GRADE: 6.2**

T81. Jim Pyne, Colts

6-2 297 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has the power and explosiveness to move the pile in the running game. Can dominate at the point of attack. Plays with a mean streak and a great motor. Works to sustain and finish blocks.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal athleticism. Struggles against quicker defensive tackles in pass protection. Durability is a concern. Is beginning to age.

Bottom line: Currently is more a quality reserve than a starter. **GRADE: 6.2**

T81. Alex Sulfsted, Redskins

6-4 305 Age: 24 1st year

Strengths: Has good size and a wide frame.

Shows decent feet and adequate quickness. Shows a quick set and gets good depth in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Does not play with enough balance in pass protection. Loses power by coming out of stance too high and has not shown the ability to drive-block in the running game because of poor technique.

Bottom line: Developmental reserve who has a good build and excellent potential but needs experience to develop technique in the passing and running game. **GRADE: 6.2**

85. Paul Zukauskas, Browns

6-5 306 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and is extremely strong at the point of attack. Can hold his own in a short-area fistfight.

Weaknesses: Struggles in pass protection; tends to get beat off the ball by quicker defensive tackles. Needs to improve quickness and lateral movement.

Bottom line: Seems to be a better fit at guard than tackle because of his inability to handle quick ends. **GRADE: 6.1**

86. Derrick Chambers, Jaguars

6-3 306 Age: 24 1st year

Strengths: Has excellent size and good speed. Is solid at the point of attack and has the power and be an effective run blocker.

Weaknesses: Former defensive lineman in college is making transition to offense. His ability to learn the nuances of pass blocking could be somewhat troublesome. Has adequate athletic ability.

Bottom line: Has an outside chance to be a contributor this season but must overcome obstacles. **GRADE: 6.0**

T87. Tom Ackerman, Raiders

6-3 296 Age: 30 6th year

Versatile reserve who shows ability to play both center and guard. Lacks ideal power but takes good angles to blocks, gets in good position and works to the whistle. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Ray Brown, free agent

6-5 318 Age: 39 17th year

Was one of the NFL's best in his prime. Takes excellent angles to blocks and plays with ideal intensity. Career clearly is on the decline. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Matt Campbell, Texans

6-4 300 Age: 30 8th year

Plays with great technique and has good experience but is a much better football player than athlete. Does not look comfortable making blocks in space or redirecting in pass protection. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Anthony Cesario, Dolphins

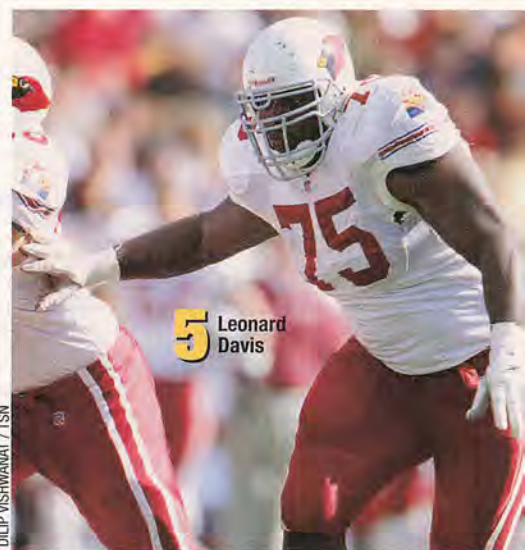
6-5 305 Age: 26 3rd year

Inconsistent reserve who has excellent size. Flashes great potential but lacks ideal athletic ability. Cannot block a moving target and can be a liability in pass protection. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Ben Coleman, free agent

6-5 332 Age: 31 7th year

Journeyman who struggles to block the moving target in space and lacks great lateral mobility in pass protection. An aging but still adequate run blocker who takes good angles. **GRADE: 5.9**



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

5 Leonard Davis

T87. Calvin Collins, Texans

6-2 310 Age: 28 6th year

Is a former Atlanta Falcon who has some versatility but has never lived up to expectations. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Barry Hall, Titans

6-6 311 Age: 24 2nd year

Is a versatile reserve who shows the ability to play tackle or guard. Has excellent size and with developed footwork, should become an effective backup. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Heath Irwin, Rams

6-4 300 Age: 29 6th year

Experienced player who shows excellent instincts. Lacks ideal athletic ability and power, but works to get into position on every play and is an adequate reserve as a result. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Aaron Koch, Jaguars

6-3 300 Age: 24 3rd year

Has experience as a backup at both guard spots, as well as left tackle, but is not great at any of them. Does not have much upside. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Victor Leyva, Bengals

6-4 315 Age: 24 2nd year

Intelligent reserve rarely makes mistakes. Good strength in the running game. Lack of mobility and athletic ability cut his potential. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Glenn Parker, free agent

6-5 312 Age: 36 13th year

Plays with great intensity and shows good instincts, but no longer has the athletic ability, quickness or change of direction skills to be a great starter. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Raleigh Roundtree, free agent

6-4 295 Age: 27 5th year

Shows the ability to block the moving target at the second level and appears comfortable in space. Does not play with a mean streak and doesn't always have good technique. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Chad Ward, 49ers

6-4 320 Age: 25 1st year

Massive mauler who can be dominating at the point of attack in the running game but plays with poor leverage and technique in pass protection. **GRADE: 5.9**

T87. Bobbie Williams, Eagles

6-3 320 Age: 25 3rd year

Has been unable to keep weight down and appears

sluggish at the end of a game. An adequate run blocker who struggles with quicker defenders.

GRADE: 5.9

T87. Donald Willis, Chiefs

6-3 330

Age: 29 5th year

Versatile enough to play either guard or center. Good run blocker who struggles to deal with speedy defenders.

GRADE: 5.9

T102. Bill Ferrario, Packers

6-2 315

Age: 23 1st year

Reserve who has good size and strength. Was inactive in 2001 and must rebound from a poor training camp and preseason last year.

GRADE: 5.8

T102. Shane Grice, Buccaneers

6-1 307

Age: 25 2nd year

Reserve who plays with a mean streak and gives top effort on every play. Lacks the size, strength and athletic ability of an effective starter. Potential is limited.

GRADE: 5.8

T102. Ross Tucker, Redskins

6-4 305

Age: 23 1st year

Developmental player who gives great effort on every snap, has good size and shows good toughness. Has limited range in pass protection and struggles to block the moving target at the second level.

GRADE: 5.8

T105. DeMingo Graham, Texans

6-3 310

Age: 29 5th year

A big, massive player who can dominate in a short area. Should be a serviceable starter until one of the rookies takes over but isn't the long-term answer.

GRADE: 5.7

T105. Kaulana Noa, Rams

6-3 307

Age: 25 3rd year

Reserve who is a better pass blocker than run blocker at this point. Has good mobility. Needs to improve his strength.

GRADE: 5.7

T107. Russ Hochstein, Buccaneers

6-4 300

Age: 24 2nd year

Prospect who has good technique but lacks the athleticism, size and strength to contribute at this level.

GRADE: 5.6

T107. Omar Smith, Giants

6-2 292

Age: 24 1st year

Versatile player who is with his third team in three years. Might wind up in a reserve guard spot but can play both guard and tackle.

GRADE: 5.6

109. Mike Clare, Patriots

6-3 322

Age: 23 1st year

An intelligent player who has the size and strength to get movement at the line of scrimmage. Must improve conditioning but has upside because of good work ethic.

GRADE: 5.5

110. Jim Bundren, Dolphins

6-3 303

Age: 27 3rd year

Lacks the athletic ability and strength of a starter. Adequate run blocker who would struggle if required to play every down.

GRADE: 5.4

of attack. Has good initial pop and good strength. Shows both good balance and fundamentals. Attacks defenders in the running game. Excels at exploding off the ball. Has good feel and instincts in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Tends to be overaggressive. Doesn't have great footwork. Struggles with changing direction in the open field. Must improve ability in space.

Bottom line: Will not start right away but should become the starter at least by his second season.

GRADE: 8.3

T1. Kendall Simmons, Steelers

6-3 313

Auburn, 1st round

Strengths: Is big, athletic and has excellent overall movement. A good short-area player who has good strength and ability to lock on. Has a strong motor and is adept at moving feet. Recognizes blitzes and stunts. Rarely gets overpowered at point of attack.

Weaknesses: Struggles with speed rushers and is not as effective on an island. Does not always come off the ball with leverage. Has history of injury problems.

Bottom line: Is adept at power game and fits Fits perfectly for the Steelers' style of pulling and trapping. Could surprise.

GRADE: 8.3

3. Tionu Fonoti, Chargers

6-4 349

Nebraska, 2nd round

Strengths: Has impressive upper- and lower-body strength. Plays with leverage and has outstanding leg drive at point of attack. Excels in a short area, especially as a run blocker.

Weaknesses: Initially will struggle in blitz pickup and making adjustments in space. Lacks the speed to be effective pulling or trapping. Is not a natural pass blocker.

Bottom line: Has an excellent work ethic and will become a better pass blocker in time, but he'll dominate as a run blocker from Day One.

GRADE: 8.2

4. Fred Weary, Texans

6-4 308

Tennessee, 3rd round

A player who will pick up the pace when he is surrounded by veterans who will push him to be more aggressive. His athleticism is good enough for him to develop into a very sound player at either inside position.

GRADE: 6.7

5. Chester Pitts, Texans

6-4 320

San Diego State, 2nd round

Lined up against power, two-gap defensive tackles in 4-3 schemes, he should have excellent success. The only thing holding him back from being a starter in Houston is lack of experience.

GRADE: 5.7

6. Martin Bibla, Falcons

6-3 306

Miami (Fla.), 4th round

Could develop into the backup at both guard positions and has the potential to push for a starting job after adjusting during his first year.

GRADE: 5.6

7. Eric Heitmann, 49ers

6-3 305

Stanford, 7th round

Has ideal athleticism for the 49ers' line and plays with outstanding technique for a young player. Will need time to adjust to the speed of the NFL and needs to add bulk and lower-body strength.

GRADE: 5.4

8. Shannon Money, Panthers

6-4 295

Arkansas, undrafted free agent

Has the mobility, feet and enough strength to get the job done inside, but is not a dominating run blocker.

GRADE: 5.1

9. Ed Ta'amu, Vikings

6-1 335

Utah, 4th round

Reserve who has impressive size and strength. Plays with power and gives a good effort but does not play with great leverage. Must improve overall technique to reach potential.

GRADE: 4.3

10. Jonathan Goodwin, Jets

6-3 318

Michigan, 5th round

Was impressive in offseason workouts. Is versatile and provides needed depth immediately. Could push for playing time at left guard.

GRADE: 3.9

11. Alonzo Cunningham, Rams

6-5 304

Iowa, undrafted free agent

Coming off an ankle injury in his senior year. Needs to improve his technique but has good size and a lot of upside.

GRADE: 3.5

12. Frank Romero, Eagles

6-4 307

Oklahoma, undrafted free agent

Former college tackle who has the mobility, aggressiveness and work ethic to win a backup spot at guard. His best quality is athleticism.

GRADE: 3.4

T13. Pete Campion, Panthers

6-4 307

North Dakota State, 7th round

Has good size and moves around well. Has quick feet and good size and could develop into a serviceable backup with improved technique.

GRADE: 3.0

T13. Justin Hartwig, Titans

6-4 300

Kansas, 6th round

A mauling player who has the potential to develop into an effective reserve. Won't play this year unless it is an emergency.

GRADE: 3.0

T13. Zack Quaccia, Buccaneers

6-4 309

Stanford, 7th round

Versatile enough to play center. Rarely makes mental mistakes. Projects as a guard.

GRADE: 3.0

16. Dwayne Pierce, Giants

6-2 319

LSU, undrafted free agent

Massive, unpolished blocker who excels at getting movement in the running game. Must keep his weight down and improve mobility.

GRADE: 2.5

17. Mike Pucillo, Bills

6-4 316

Auburn, 7th round

Developmental player who has good power and is versatile but lacks athleticism and footwork.

GRADE: 2.3

T18. Kevin Barry, Packers

6-4 325

Arizona, undrafted free agent

A developmental player who has massive size and good strength but lacks technique and ideal athletic ability.

GRADE: 2.0

T18. Mike Houghton, Packers

6-5 313

San Diego State, 6th round

Has good size but must improve his footwork significantly.

GRADE: 2.0

T18. Travis Scott, Rams

6-6 300

Arizona State, 4th round

Developmental player who has good size. Played little in college and needs time to develop.

GRADE: 2.0

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

T1. LeCharles Bentley, Saints

6-3 299

Ohio State, 2nd round

Strengths: Can hold his ground at the point

1. Olin Kreutz, Bears

6-2 290

Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Is intelligent and plays with great intensity. Is an excellent leader for a young player. Moves well laterally and has good overall foot quickness. Shows the ability to get to linebackers. Is good in space and does a good job of using athletic ability to chip and move. Has a quick first step. Can usually beat the defensive lineman to the spot.

Weaknesses: Unless he plays with good leverage and solid technique, he does not have enough size and power to dominate at the line of scrimmage. Plays too high at times.

Bottom line: Young, emerging starter who should continue to improve with experience.

GRADE: 9.2

2. Kevin Mawae, Jets

6-4 289

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Has good feet and takes good angles to his blocks. Can recognize and pick up the blitz. Has enough strength to anchor against the bull rush. Has good athletic ability and adequate change of direction skills. Can cut off pressure from the backside. Is smart; can pick up stunts and make the correct line calls

Weaknesses: Lacks size and the lower-body strength to get movement in the running game. Tends to wear down over the course of the game. Is coming off offseason shoulder surgery.

Bottom line: He's aging but still has the intelligence, tenacity and technique. **GRADE: 8.9**

GRADE: 8.9

T3. Matt Birk, Vikings

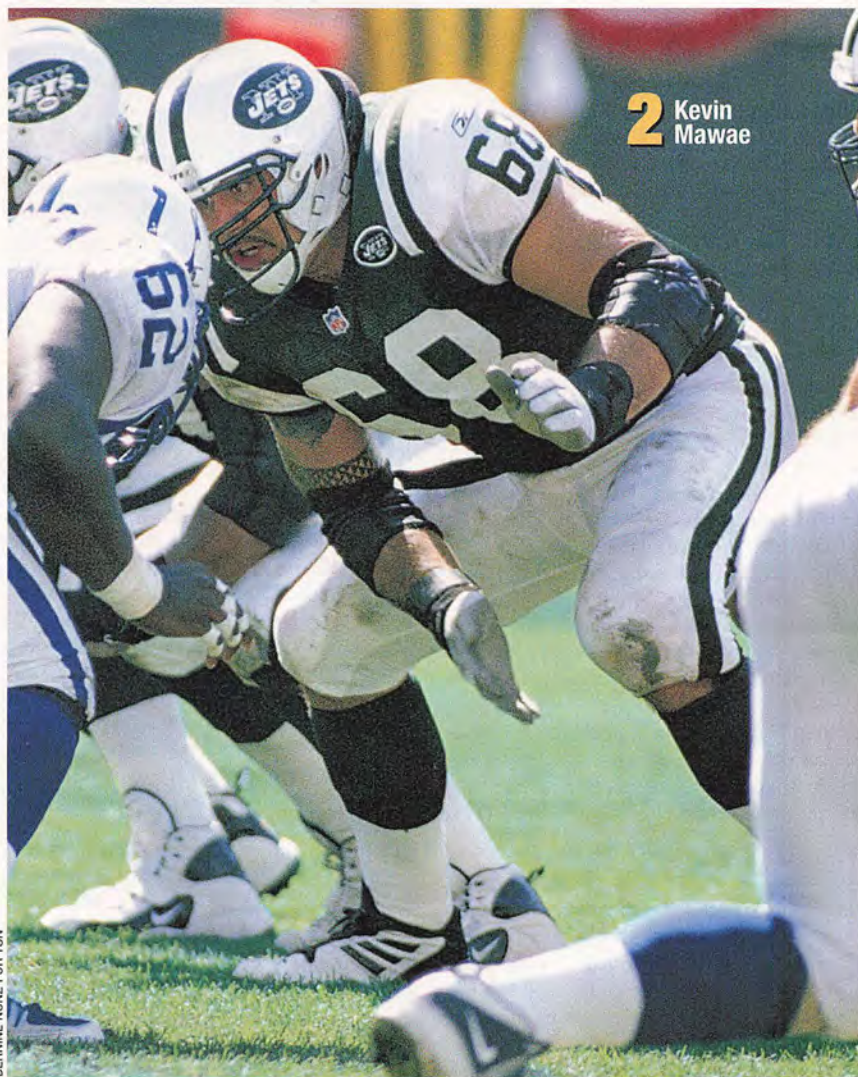
6-4 308

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Young overachiever who has the tools to make every block expected of him. Has good instincts and will make correct line calls. Is quicker than fast, but will overpower players upon contact by exploding from hips. Good in a short area and can really get out to blocks in space. Can change directions quickly and will play to the whistle on every snap. Won't make mistakes in the run game and has the quick feet to move laterally in pass protection. Makes players around him better.

Weaknesses: Will play too high sometimes. Was nicked up last season, so durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Extremely polished player who



BERNINE N11N7 FOR TSN

JOB REQUIREMENTS

	Ht.	Wt.	40
NFL optimum	6-4	310	4.95
NFL minimum	6-1	280	5.30

Because most teams use 4-3 defenses, centers often are uncovered by a defensive lineman. They must be able to play in space, which requires the quickness to hit a moving linebacker without overextending in the running game, and the lateral movement to help both guards in pass protection and blitz pick-ups. Centers need size and strength to handle bull rushes and to open running lanes against a nose tackle in a 3-4 or a "shaded" defensive tackle in a 4-3.

plays the game with intensity. **GRADE: 8.3**

GRADE: 8.3

T3. Jeremy Newberry, 49ers

6-5 304

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Plays with good overall power and a mean streak. Shows the ability to lock on and dominate in a short area. Versatile enough to play guard or tackle. Has become technically sound and takes good angles to blocks. Displays a quick set in pass protection and the ability to redirect inside to pick up blitzing linebackers.

Weaknesses: Does not have great mobility and struggles to make blocks beyond the line of scrimmage with any consistency. Has kept weight down the last two seasons but has had

problems with that in the past.

Bottom line: Versatile starter who possesses a good combination of size, strength and sound technique. Is developing into a leader on the 49ers' line and is becoming one of the most efficient centers in the league. **GRADE: 8.3**

5. Jeff Mitchell, Panthers

6-4 300

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has quick feet and does a good job in space. Will play with balance. Shows the ability to get out and chip the linebacker on the second level. Has great speed and is able to change directions in space. Has adequate upper body strength.

Weaknesses: Gives up a lot of bulk against nose tackles that are head-on. Struggles to consistently play with leverage. Does not show the ability to anchor versus the bull rush. Unable to knock defensive tackles or nose tackles back off the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: A solid starter. Will show leadership. Struggled last season because of playing in an entirely new scheme. Should return to form. **GRADE: 8.0**

T6. Mike Flanagan, Packers

6-5 297

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Is good in space and does a nice job of getting to the linebacker and maintaining balance when he pulls. Has the ability to hit moving targets consistently. Plays with good overall instincts. Shows good footwork and the ability to mirror and slide in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal strength and struggles with bigger and more physical defensive linemen. Isn't capable of getting movement in the running game.

Bottom line: A somewhat undersized, athletic starter who may never be a power player. His instincts, mobility, intelligence and relentless approach make him solid. **GRADE: 7.7**

T6. Jeff Hartings, Steelers

6-3 295

Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Smart and instinctive player who excels in short area and plays with power and lower body explosiveness. Has excellent lock-on skills. Can leverage defenders and uses hands well. Takes good angles, can chip off and pick up blitzes.

Weaknesses: Will not dazzle with speed or with overall athleticism in space.

Bottom line: Has a great feel for game and is a leader. Makes all line calls, and shows ability to make adjustments on the move.



PETER NEWCOMB FOR TSN

Improving with age. Will be a rock for the Steelers' offense. **GRADE: 7.7**

T6. Tom Nalen, Broncos

6-3 286

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Is an excellent leader. Shows very good change of direction skills and the ability to consistently block the moving target. Has good quickness. Plays under control. Is very good at picking up blitzes and line stunts. Has great technique.

Weaknesses: Lacks the bulk to wear opponents down. Does not have the lower body strength to get consistent movement. Durability is bound to become a bigger issue as he gets older.

Bottom line: Should be on verge of another productive season on the Denver offensive line. **GRADE: 7.7**

9. Damien Woody, Patriots

6-3 320

Age: 24 4th year

Strengths: Has tremendous power and short-area explosion. Can dominate at the point of attack. Has excellent lower body strength and plays with good leverage. Has nice range in the open field. Shows good feet and balance and plays with very good technique. Does a great job of handling power down the middle. Has a strong work ethic.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve conditioning. Must improve ability to make the shotgun snap.

Bottom line: Complete player entering fourth season as starting center. **GRADE: 7.6**

10. Dusty Zeigler, Giants

6-5 303

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Plays with good leverage and shows initial quickness. Has impressive size and athletic ability. Gets to the second level and shows the ability to redirect and block a moving target. Knows limitations and hides weaknesses with sound technique. Works to finish and sustain blocks.

Weaknesses: Lacks the base and lower-body strength to anchor at times. Struggles with bigger defensive tackles. Is coming off leg surgery, and durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Isn't one of the more talented centers in the league, but mobility, competitiveness and intelligence make him an effective starter. **GRADE: 7.5**

T11. Barret Robbins, Raiders

6-3 320

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has explosive power through the lower body. Finishes blocks and plays with great awareness in pass protection. A competitive, instinctive center adept at making line calls. Able to handle either a two-gap plugger or a one-gap penetrator.

Weaknesses: Missed all of 2001 because of a knee injury.

Bottom line: Key to the Raiders' offensive line who must regain his 2000 form. **GRADE: 7.4**

T11. Casey Wiegmann, Chiefs

6-2 285

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has underrated athletic ability. Does well blocking in open space. Able to mirror and stay with a defender in pass protection. Uses leverage well. Able to block moving targets and pick up the blitz. Takes great angles to downfield blocks.

Weaknesses: Must win inside battles with position and leverage. Struggles to deal with a big nose tackle in man-to-man situations.

Bottom line: A finesse blocking center with outstanding feet. Can block defenders away from traffic and help the guards block. Not a powerful run blocker. **GRADE: 7.4**

T11. Dave Wohlabaugh, Browns

6-3 292

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has quick feet and can mirror and slide in pass protection. Can anchor at the

ON THE RISE: Gennaro DiNapoli, Titans

He'll be pushed by free-agent pickup Jeff Smith, but he's a strong, athletic player with a mean streak. DiNapoli should have a good first year as a starter.

ON THE DECLINE: Tim Ruddy, Dolphins

Miami courted free agent Olin Kreutz in the offseason because of Ruddy's inability to open holes in the running game. Ruddy has had problems with durability.

MOST ATHLETIC: Olin Kreutz, Bears

He went to the Pro Bowl last season because no one is a better blocker in space. He does a great job chipping the down lineman before getting up to the linebacker.

BEST RUN BLOCKER: Matt Birk, Vikings

He combines size, intelligence and an aggressive approach to consistently create running lanes for the back. He might be the best all-round center in the league.

BEST PASS BLOCKER: Olin Kreutz, Bears

He's undersized and needs help against bigger tackles at times, but those are his only real weaknesses. He shows rare quickness and athleticism in pass protection.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Damien Woody, Patriots

He's good but could be dominant with improved technique and consistent effort. He also can't snap in the shotgun, so he must move to guard on those plays.

point of attack vs. bull-rushing defensive tackles. Can play on the edges. Finishes every block and plays to the whistle.

Weaknesses: Does not contribute much as a run blocker. Does not play a power game and struggles in a short area.

Bottom line: Knows what to do on every play but has obvious weaknesses—limited size and strength are foremost on the list.

GRADE: 7.4

14. Andy McCollum, Rams

6-4 300 Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Has adequate footwork and bulk. Displays tremendous leadership skills. Does an excellent job with line calls. Has a good feel for the Rams' system. Plays with good leverage for his height and shows good strength at the point of attack. Has the base and pop to move the pile and anchor himself against the bull rush.

Weaknesses: Has trouble when asked to make blocks downfield in space. Does not have great speed or athleticism. Needs help when matched against quicker linemen in pass protection.

Bottom line: Solid and reliable starter who did not lose a step or any power the past two years.

GRADE: 7.3

T15. Jeff Christy, Buccaneers

6-2 285 Age: 33 10th year

Strengths: Mobile and quick. Plays with good balance and body control. Crafty at the point of attack. Has lateral movement and change of direction skills to hit a moving target.

Weaknesses: Lacks the strength and bulk to match up one-on-one against a nose tackle. Doesn't have the base or lower-body strength to hold his ground against a bull rush or a blitz. Struggles to get a surge in the run game.

Bottom line: Age and injuries working against him. An adequate starter, but not for much longer if he continues to slow down and lose quickness.

GRADE: 7.2

T15. Steve McKinney, Texans

6-4 295 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has an explosive first step and comes off the ball hard. Plays with good leverage and overall technique. Has excellent athletic ability and consistently blocks the moving target at the second level. Shows good lateral mobility in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size and is not a dominant run blocker. Is making the transition from guard to center and might need time to adjust. Struggles to anchor against the bull rush at times.

Bottom line: Underrated and extremely athletic player who does an excellent job in space. Rarely misses an assignment.

GRADE: 7.2

T17. Mike Gruttadauria, Cardinals

6-3 284 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has quick feet and does a nice job in space. Has good speed and shows good balance when changing directions. Can hit the moving target and has a quick setup in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and lacks the lower-body strength to hold his ground against bull rushers or to move the pile in the running game. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: An active player who has a great feel for line calls. Has the ability to help out in space. A lack of size hurts against bigger nose tackles; often needs help in the running game.

GRADE: 7.1

T17. Jeff Saturday, Colts

6-2 293 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Does an excellent job of reading defenses. Works to sustain his blocks. Is a fierce competitor. Is versatile enough to play guard and center. Uses speed to get downfield.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size or strength. Struggles vs. bull rush. Must do a better job of breaking down in the open field. Lacks ideal balance. Spends too much time on the ground.

Bottom line: Finds ways to get the job done. Play of second-year guards will determine his effectiveness.

GRADE: 7.1

T19. Eric Beverly, Lions

6-3 294 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Has straight-line speed and can block moving targets beyond the line of scrimmage. Has a quick setup and can change direction in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Lacks strength and size. Lacks focus and doesn't prepare well. Has trouble when bigger nose tackles line up over him. Struggles to pick up blitzing linebackers.

Bottom line: Adequate starter who is young enough to add bulk and become more aware. Did not show significant improvement last season.

GRADE: 7.0

T19. Gennaro DiNapoli, Titans

6-3 295 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to play center or either guard spots. Has good athletic ability. Does a good job of anchoring against the bull rush. Plays the game with great intensity and a mean streak. Is always working to sustain or finish his blocks.

Weaknesses: Does not have great strength. Lacks good size. Will get knocked back at the point of attack by a bigger defensive lineman. Does not have great balance and spends too much time on the ground.

Bottom line: With aggressive approach to the game, should develop into an effective starter after experiencing some early growing pains.

GRADE: 7.0

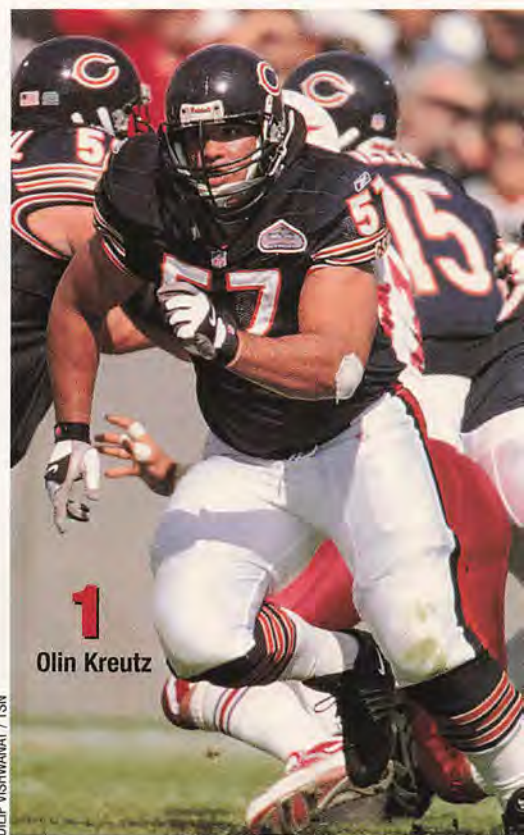
T19. Dominic Raiola, Lions

6-1 303 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Plays with leverage. Fires out of stance. Uses lower-body strength as an anchor against the bull rush and to push the pile in the running game. Takes good angles to blocks and has adequate footwork.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent in pass protection. Lunges too much. Must improve blitz recognition and balance. Has gained weight and appears sluggish at times.

Bottom line: Reserve who has better power



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

and athleticism than starter Eric Beverly.

Must get in better shape in to play more and gain experience.

GRADE: 7.0

T19. Cory Raymer, Chargers

6-3 300 Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Is a tough, hard-nosed player who likes to overpower his opponent. Good in a short area. Is adept at handling double-teams and going head-up vs. defensive tackles. Is a mature leader on the field.

Weaknesses: Has had durability problems. Lacks overall quickness and athleticism. Does not adjust well in space and struggles against athletic or agile linemen.

Bottom line: Brings toughness to the Chargers' offensive line but is only a short-term answer at center.

GRADE: 7.0

T23. Rich Braham, Bengals

6-4 309 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Tough player who shows ability to move the pile. Will not lose many matchups in the running game. Always works to finish the block.

Weaknesses: Has problems blocking in space. Durability and health are concerns. Lacks the lateral mobility to be great in pass protection.

Bottom line: Has excellent strength. Plays with a mean streak. A better run blocker than pass blocker.

GRADE: 6.9

T23. Jerry Fontenot, Saints

6-3 300 Age: 35 14th year

Strengths: Has a quick first step. Plays with balance and good leverage. Has good lateral

movement. Is rarely out of position. Is versatile.

Weaknesses: Lacks great size and power. Lacks the base to hold his ground. Struggles in space. Unable to hit moving targets and not effective beyond the point of attack.

Bottom line: Has the athletic ability and craftiness to remain a solid starter for the next year or two before he finishes his career.

GRADE: 6.9

T23. Frank Garcia, Rams

6-2 302 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Takes good angles and is at his best in space. Has some starting experience. Able to get beyond the line and hit moving targets. Plays with good balance and has adequate lateral movement.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size or strength. Will struggle against bigger defensive tackles and bull rushers. Lacks the lower-body strength to drive the pile.

Bottom line: Quality reserve who has experience. Plays with great technique and is a classic positional blocker.

GRADE: 6.9

T23. Robbie Tobeck, Seahawks

6-4 298 Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Has good footwork, quickness and skills. Does a nice job of picking up the blitz. Can hit moving targets.

Weaknesses: Lacks bulk and gives up too much size in many matchups. Not exceptionally strong. Does not have the base to anchor and lacks good initial pop as a blocker.

Bottom line: An adequate starter who has a lot of experience. Looks to be in good enough shape to give the Seahawks at least one more solid year of service.

GRADE: 6.9

T23. Adam Treu, Raiders

6-5 300 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Versatile—can play all five positions on the offensive line. A solid long-snapper with good velocity. An intense, instinctive player who walls off defenders.

Weaknesses: Lacks power, lower-body explosion and smooth movement through the hips. Inadequate footwork. Unable to attack and make plays in open space.

Bottom line: Valuable because of his versatility and hustle, Treu is solid backup who proved capable when asked to step in for an injured starter.

GRADE: 6.9

T28. Robert Garza, Falcons

6-2 296 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is an active, athletic player. Shows good initial burst out of stance. Uses good technique. Shows good feet and will stay balanced. Has the feet and speed to reach the second level.

Weaknesses: Needs to add bulk and strength. Lacks great size at point of attack. Doesn't always see blitzes or stunts coming.

Bottom line: Is the Falcons' most promising young offensive lineman and could wind up starting at some point during the season.

GRADE: 6.8

T28. Bubba Miller, Saints

6-1 305 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent overall strength. Good in run blocking. Plays with good leverage and gets a good push. Does an excellent job in small spaces and is at his best as an inside run blocker. Gives good effort.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have a lot of range or movement. Lacks good feet and athletic ability. Struggles in space. Has trouble staying healthy.

Bottom line: Is an adequate starting center who can play guard and tight end in short-yardage and goal-line situations.

GRADE: 6.8

T28. Larry Moore, Redskins

6-2 296 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Shows good athletic ability. Has good upper- and lower-body strength. Is effective when he gets hands inside and locks on. Shows the ability to block the moving target at the second level.

Weaknesses: Lacks an explosive first step, good initial quickness and struggles against quicker defensive tackles. Does not have great lateral quickness and has trouble redirecting in pass protection. Overextends at times.

Bottom line: Experienced and athletic enough to be effective starter but must be more consistent in pass protection.

GRADE: 6.8

T28. Shaun O'Hara, Browns

6-3 287 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has great work ethic, very quick feet and moves well laterally. Gets into position to make the block. Is hard to knock off his feet. Is a very tactical player.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size. Plays with poor leverage. Lacks the lower body strength to stay with bigger opponents.

Bottom line: Knows the game well but isn't starting material.

GRADE: 6.8

T28. Jeff Smith, Titans

6-3 320 Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and good overall strength. Shows the ability to move the pile. Plays with a mean streak and is aggressive. Is always working to finish his blocks.

Weaknesses: Will struggle to redirect working against quicker and more active defensive tackles. Lacks ideal initial quickness. Tends to wear down late in games and needs to improve conditioning.

Bottom line: Smith, an excellent free-agent acquisition, will get the early nod to start and brings experience to a line that was hurt by Bruce Matthews' retirement.

GRADE: 6.8

T33. Hank Fraley, Eagles

6-2 300 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Understands the scheme, rarely is caught out of position and is very good at making line calls.

Weaknesses: Does not have great power at the point of attack and struggles with bigger nose tackles. Lacks ideal footwork and lateral quickness in pass protection and struggles

when forced to redirect and pick up blitzing linebackers.

Bottom line: Fringe starter who played better than expected last year but fits better as a backup and eventually should be replaced by rookie Scott Peters.

GRADE: 6.7

T33. Kendyl Jacox, Saints

6-2 330 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Can be dominant at the point of attack. Can play guard and center. Picks up blitzes. Works hard until the whistle.

Weaknesses: Lacks athletic ability. Is a liability in space. Struggles to adjust on the move. Gets knocked back at point of attack.

Bottom line: Interior lineman who provides depth. Might never become a quality starter because of his poor mobility.

GRADE: 6.7

T33. Todd McClure, Falcons

6-1 286 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is quick and athletic. Will use good leverage at point of attack. Stays balanced in space. Has the ability to help out guards in the passing game. Able to hit moving targets in the running game.

Weaknesses: Lacks the lower-body strength to hold his ground against the bull rush. Lacks height. Will get overmatched at point of attack and needs help in those situations.

Bottom line: Will make a great backup at center and is versatile enough to back up all three interior line positions.

GRADE: 6.7

36. Cory Withrow, Vikings

6-2 281 Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Versatile lineman who plays guard and center. Has adequate run blocking skills and can pull, trap and pass protect in space. Works hard and will not stop working until the whistle. Has great feel for the game and displays excellent recognition skills.

Weaknesses: Not very strong and has no explosion at the point of attack. Has trouble in a short area. Lacks size and can get blown back.

Bottom line: Extremely undersized backup who is at his best when uncovered or making blocks in space.

GRADE: 6.6

T37. Mike Flynn, Ravens

6-3 300 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Has excellent range. Takes good angles. Can bounce off and pick up linebackers. Does well picking up blitzes.

Weaknesses: Gets overpowered by bigger interior defensive lineman. Struggles to anchor at the point of attack. Does not always use his hands well.

Bottom line: Can play all three inside positions, so versatility is an asset. Not a power player at the point of attack but can operate in space and be effective.

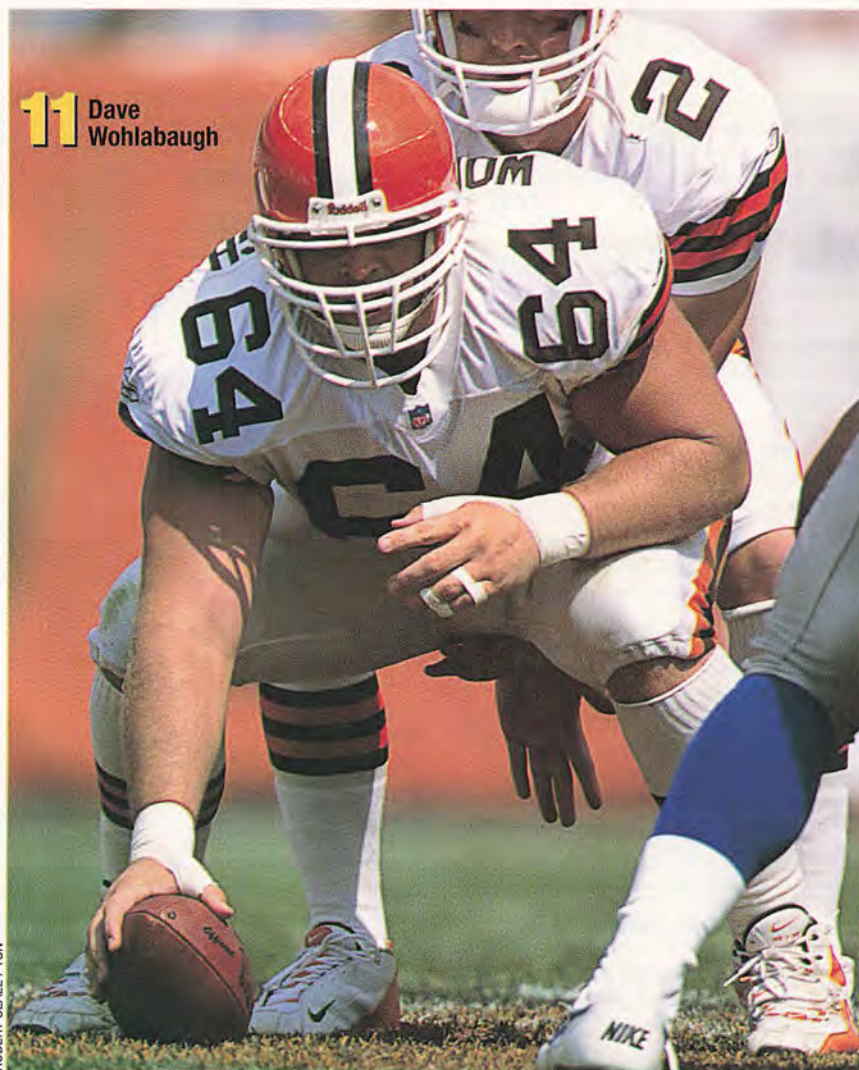
GRADE: 6.5

T37. Matt Lehr, Cowboys

6-2 292 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is technically sound, athletic and deceptively strong. Takes good angles to blocks. Shows excellent initial pop at point of attack and does a good job of chipping on

11 Dave Wohlabough



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

double-teams.

Weaknesses: Is undersized, struggles with bigger defensive tackles and must add bulk. Played guard last year and has little experience at center.

Bottom line: Has the intelligence and potential to be a productive starter once he gains needed experience. **GRADE: 6.5**

T37. Tim Ruddy, Dolphins

6-3 300 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has a great motor. Works to get into the ideal blocking position and has excellent instincts. Is extremely durable. Has good athletic ability and footwork.

Weaknesses: Strictly a finesse blocker; lacks the strength and size to play a power game. Can't move the pile in the running game. Lacks the ability to anchor against the bull rush; will get blown back into the quarterback at times.

Bottom line: Lacks ideal strength but plays with excellent technique and rarely misses an assignment. **GRADE: 6.5**

T40. Billy Conaty, Bills

6-2 300 Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Is intelligent and has a great feel

for line calls. Has adequate feet, good initial quickness and works to sustain blocks. Takes good angles to blocks at the second level.

Weaknesses: Gives up a lot of size against most defensive linemen and lacks the lower-body strength to anchor against the bull rush. Does not have an explosive first step or show good initial pop. Needs assistance as a run blocker.

Bottom line: Reserve who knows the Bills' offense and is capable of getting the job done. **GRADE: 6.4**

T40. Brock Gutierrez, Bengals

6-3 304 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Good leadership. Makes all the right line calls. Solid fundamentals and good strength. Works to the whistle on every play. Comes off the ball low and hard.

Weaknesses: Is not quick and has no real burst. Does not show the ability to block the moving target at the second level.

Bottom line: Reserve who shows the ability to get the job done over a short period. Would struggle if forced to start. Will contribute on special teams. **GRADE: 6.4**

T40. Chukky Okobi, Steelers

6-1 310 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: An athletic player who has good overall quickness. Adept at blocking in space and on second level utilizing good angles. Has nice pop and explosiveness, and more effective when uncovered.

Weaknesses: Lacks impressive size, particularly height. Not a power player. Does not possess overly exciting skills.

Bottom line: A versatile lineman who can provide depth. A movement-type center who is better in space and without a nose tackle head up on him. **GRADE: 6.4**

T40. Casey Rabach, Ravens

6-4 301 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and overall physicality. Rarely misses a block. Has a good feel for pass protection. Finds a way to get the job done.

Weaknesses: Does not have good feet. Lacks overall quickness and speed. Struggles in power game vs. nose tackles. Does not work well in space.

Bottom line: Must step up as starter this season. Should be able to help guards pick up the blitz. Also should contribute as a blocker in the inside run game. **GRADE: 6.4**

T44. Ben Hamilton, Broncos

6-4 283 Age: 25 1st year

Strengths: Has above-average athletic ability and appears comfortable in space. Plays much bigger than his size. Is a tough player who will play through pain.

Weaknesses: Lacks natural size and does not have ideal strength. Will have trouble anchoring against the bull rush at times. Needs to maintain a better base.

Bottom line: Never will be a dominant interior player, but should be able to use his intelligence and quickness to develop into an effective starter in time. **GRADE: 6.3**

T44. J.P. Machado, Jets

6-4 300 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Plays with tremendous effort. Has quick feet and above-average speed for the position. Rarely is overpowered at the point of attack. Can sustain every block.

Weaknesses: Lacks great lower-body strength. Struggles to anchor against the bull rush and gets pushed back into the pocket by bigger and more physical defensive tackles.

Bottom line: Plays with sound technique and great effort but lacks the power, size and athletic ability to be an effective starter. **GRADE: 6.3**

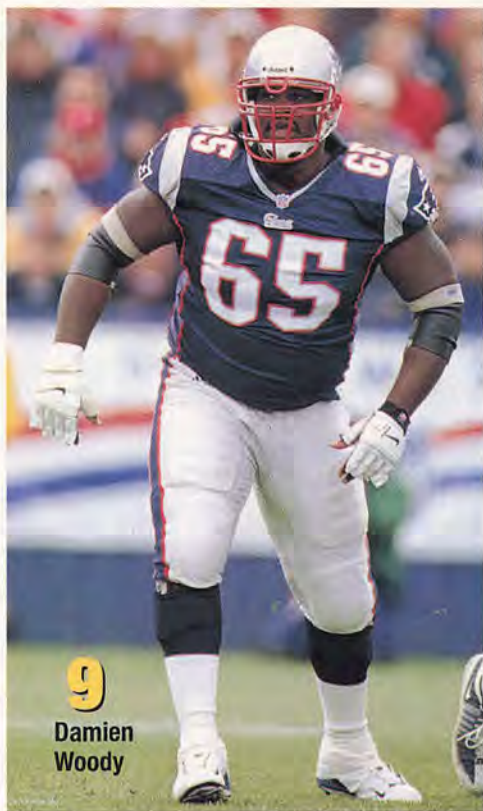
T46. Richard Mercier, Browns

6-3 300 Age: 27 1st year

Strengths: Has decent speed. Will work to get in position. Comes out of stance in good position and drives forward. A finesse-type player.

Weaknesses: Lacks good strength and speed. Struggles to play in space. Can't control the line of scrimmage or move a pile.

Bottom line: Might improve over time on a



9
Damien
Woody

MARK BOLTON FOR TSN

Weaknesses: Does not show great power or the ability to move the pile in the running game. Lacks great initial quickness. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Must play with perfect technique to be effective and would struggle if forced into the lineup. Has minimal long-term upside. **GRADE: 6.1**

T48. John Wade, Jaguars

6-5 300 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has good strength and short-area power. Wins most battles at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Does not have a lot of range and struggles when forced to pass protect on an island. Lacks change of direction skills. Is a liability in pulling and trapping situations.

Bottom line: Has too many weaknesses that can be exploited **GRADE: 6.1**

T48. Frank Winters, Packers

6-3 305 Age: 38 16th year

Strengths: Has adequate size. Takes good angles to blocks. Plays with a good base and can move the pile.

Weaknesses: Mobility and strength are on the decline. Shows marginal footwork and struggles to redirect in pass protection.

Bottom line: A former starter who lacks ideal athletic ability and quickness. Natural skills are declining with age, but he still is an adequate reserve because of sound technique and experience. **GRADE: 6.1**

practice squad but has limited upside.

GRADE: 6.2

T46. Todd Washington, Buccaneers

6-3 324 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Tremendous size and strength. Doesn't lose many one-on-one battles once locked on. Good power at the point of attack. Holds up nicely against a bull rush.

Weaknesses: Physically limited. Struggles in space, lacks explosive first step, too slow to block linebackers. Poor at picking up blitzes and stunts while pass blocking.

Bottom line: Can dominate in the run game, but too big and immobile to be a starter.

GRADE: 6.2

T48. David Brandt, Redskins

6-4 309 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Shows good pop at the point of attack and works to sustain and finish blocks. Does a nice job driving legs. Efficient run blocker.

Weaknesses: Has problems blocking the moving target at the second level. Lacks ideal footwork in pass protection and struggles when forced to move laterally. Is not a natural knee bender and does not have good balance.

Bottom line: Versatile enough to play center or guard but lacks athleticism needed in Washington's pass-heavy offense. **GRADE: 6.1**

T48. Kevin Dogins, Bears

6-1 305 Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Is versatile. Has good experience for a backup. Plays with sound technique and does a great job of getting into position.

T52. Aaron Graham, Titans

6-4 301 Age: 29 5th year

Reserve who has excellent size and shows the ability to move the pile in the running game. Lacks ideal athletic ability and likely would struggle if forced into a significant role. **GRADE: 5.9**

T52. Ben Lynch, free agent

6-4 295 Age: 29 3rd year

Does not appear comfortable making blocks in space, does not play with a great base and must improve technique to become anything more than depth player. **GRADE: 5.9**

T54. Kevin Long, Jaguars

6-5 295 Age: 27 4th year

Undersized player who has starting experience. Inability to block the moving target, a lack of great strength and inconsistency make him a better fit as a reserve. **GRADE: 5.8**

T54. Jason Starkey, Cardinals

6-4 282 Age: 25 3rd year

Has adequate quickness and athleticism but is undersized and lacks strength. Best in space. Can be overpowered by big nose tackles. **GRADE: 5.8**

56. Troy Andrew, Dolphins

6-4 305 Age: 24 2nd year

Shows good athletic ability but does not have ideal lower-body strength. Struggles to get movement in the running game and lacks great quickness. **GRADE: 5.7**

T57. Pat Downey, Patriots

6-2 300 Age: 28 1st year

Lacks the size, strength and bulk to hold up against power players. Is not a good enough athlete to be strictly a finesse player. **GRADE: 5.5**

T57. Siitupe Peko, Seahawks

6-4 300 Age: 23 1st year

Needs to get stronger and improve his footwork. Has to settle in at the center position to develop into a solid backup. Has a ways to go on all counts. **GRADE: 5.5**

59. Louis Williams, Panthers

6-4 291 Age: 23 1st year

Is a hard-working, overachieving, versatile player who gives great effort and could develop into an adequate backup. Has almost no potential as a starter. Needs to show improved feet and overall production. **GRADE: 5.4**

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Andre Gurode, Cowboys

6-4 316 Colorado, 2nd round

Strengths: Has the size and lower-body strength to develop into a dominant run blocker. Works to finish blocks, plays with good balance and shows good initial quickness. Has long arms to ride defenders by the pocket when pass blocking.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve footwork and ability to redirect in pass protection. Is not capable of consistently blocking moving targets.

Bottom line: One of the best guards in the draft, he's expected to start at center this season. **GRADE: 9.0**

2. Melvin Fowler, Browns

6-3 300 Maryland, 3rd round

Strengths: Has good quickness. Gets in good position against linebackers and is an above-average open-field blocker. Picks up stunts and blitzes well. Is very aware and technically sound. Works hard.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size; shoulder surgeries in both 1998 and '99 limited his time in weight room. Lacks the lower body strength to anchor against bull-rushing nose tackles. Comes out of stance too high.

Bottom line: Made great strides as a senior at Maryland. Showed leadership skills and ability to make line calls. **GRADE: 8.9**

3. Seth McKinney, Dolphins

6-3 300 Texas A&M, 3rd round

Will provide excellent depth because of his versatility and athleticism. In time should become an effective backup. **GRADE: 6.3**

4. Scott Peters, Eagles

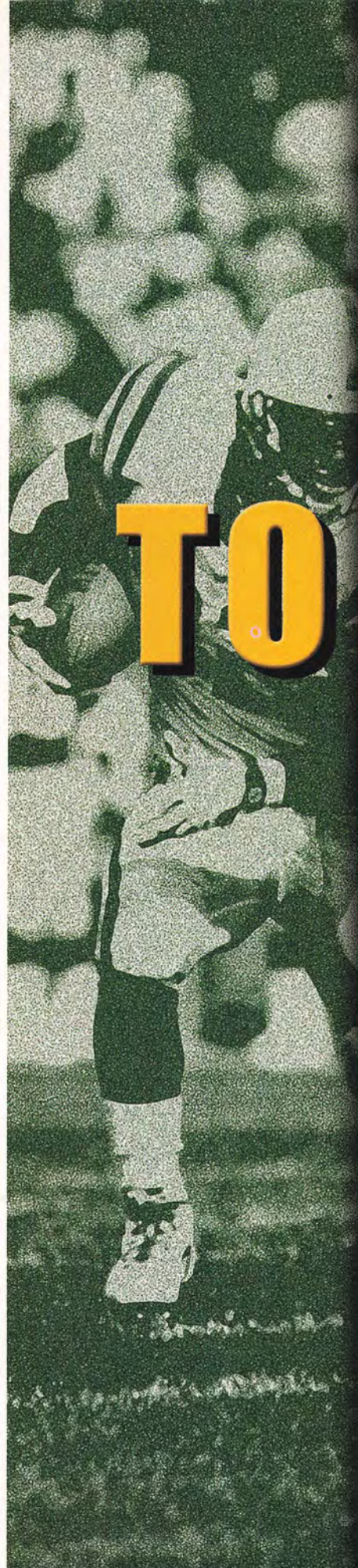
6-3 300 Arizona State, 4th round

Powerful, physical player who needs a year to improve technique and learn line calls before making a legitimate run at the starting job. **GRADE: 5.6**

5. Luke Butkus, Bears

6-3 278 Illinois, undrafted free agent

Is intelligent and plays with intensity and toughness but lacks size, initial quickness and strength. **GRADE: 3.0**



PREPARE TO WIN.

Your fantasy draft decisions can make or break your season. Head into your draft armed with fantasy news, insight & analysis for making smart strategic draft moves in your league. In one convenient, printable package our **FANTASY FOOTBALL DRAFT KIT** is the fantasy research tool you need to win your league.

The 2002 kit is updated regularly and available now at
sportingnews.com/nfl/draftkit

SportingNews
com

DEFENSIVE ENDS

VETERANS

1. Michael Strahan, Giants

6-5 275

Age: 30 10th year

Strengths: Has outstanding quickness and long arms. Beats most offensive linemen with an explosive first step and plays with great leverage. Has tremendous recognition skills and instincts. Has outstanding strength at the point of attack and does a nice job of disengaging blocks, locating the ball and chasing down the ballcarrier. Has adequate hip flexibility, change of direction abilities and power as a pass rusher. Versatile player who will line up over the guard and penetrate gaps and be disruptive on the inside.

Weaknesses: Has average straight-line speed. Is a bit undersized. There is concern about how his dissatisfaction with current contract situation might affect his play.

Bottom line: Was the 2001 Defensive Player of the Year when he set a single-season record for sacks, with 22½. Is a premier pass rusher and has the ability to stuff the run.

GRADE: 9.7

2. Jevon Kearse, Titans

6-4 265

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has great overall speed and is an excellent athlete. Is at his best making plays in space and chasing down plays. Is relentless in pursuit and plays with a nonstop motor. Shows the ability to make plays in the backfield and can strip the ball as a pass rusher.

Weaknesses: Does not show a second pass rush move. Has trouble when he is working against bigger and more physical offensive tackles.

Bottom line: Would become the most dominant end in the NFL if he could develop a second pass rush move. Has an improved ability to stack and shed in the running game. Will continue to be productive and improve.

GRADE: 9.6

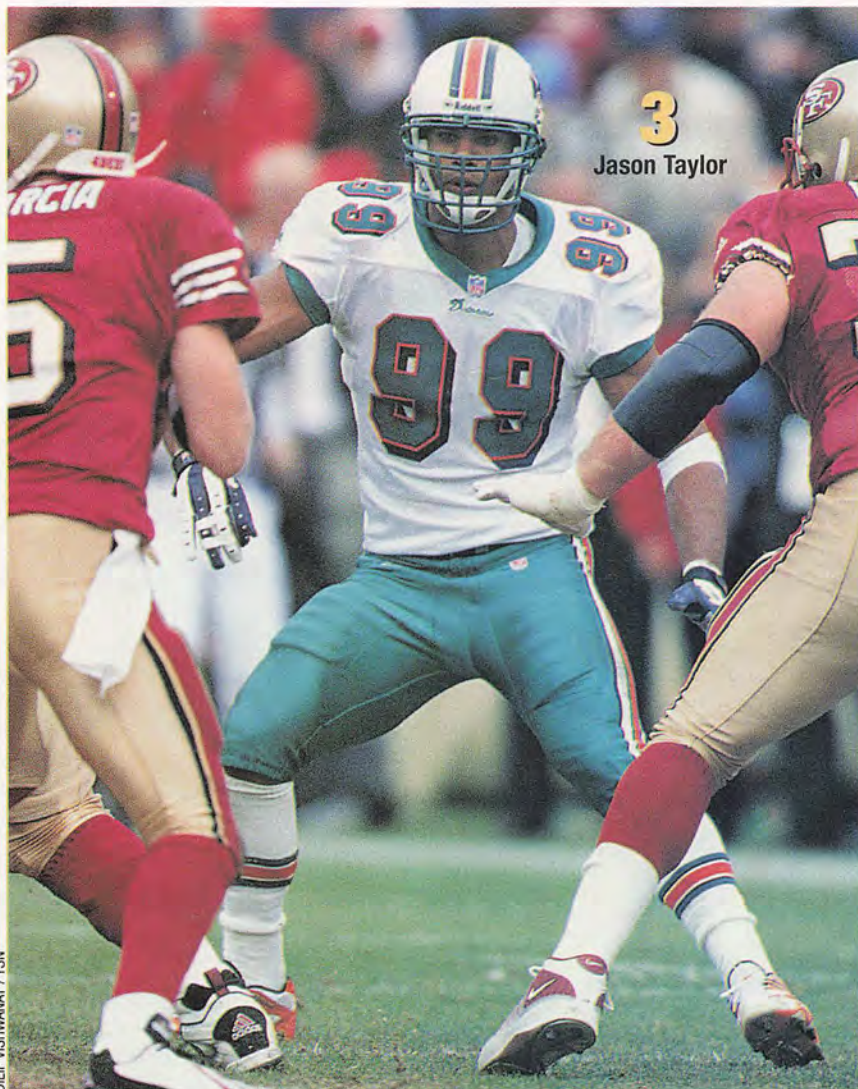
3. Jason Taylor, Dolphins

6-6 260

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has a tremendous work ethic. Has speed and initial burst off the ball. Excels at making plays in space. Shows good leaping ability, has good height and does a good job of getting hands up in the passing lanes. Has tremendous athletic ability. Has improved his strength at the point of attack and did a much better job using hands and quick feet last season. Has outstanding recognition skills.

Weaknesses: Lacks the bulk and strength to



3

Jason Taylor

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

JOB REQUIREMENTS

	Ht.	Wt.	40
NFL optimum	6-5	285	4.60
NFL minimum	6-2	250	5.00

Michael Strahan is an example of the ideal defensive end; he has the size and strength to stuff the run, plus the speed and athletic ability to harass the quarterback. But he is a rare specimen. Teams that play a 4-3 defense usually put a pass-rushing end on the weak side and a run-stuffing end on the strong side. In the 3-4 defense, both ends are run stuffers because the scheme relies on outside linebackers to pressure the quarterback.

anchor against the run. Must play with great leverage on every down, something he doesn't always do. Wears down over the course of the game.

Bottom line: His lack of size always makes durability a concern.

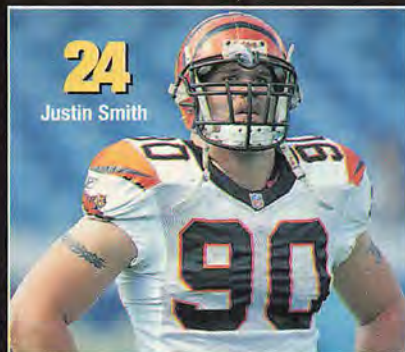
GRADE: 9.0

T4. John Abraham, Jets

6-4 256

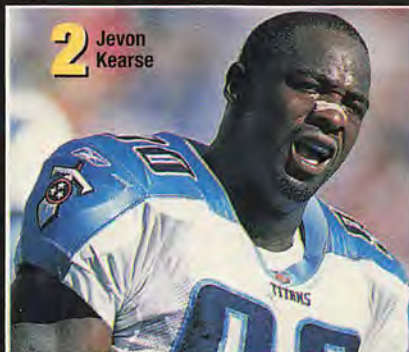
Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Is relentless in pursuit and can run down plays. Shows great closing speed on the passer. Has good leaping ability and does a good job getting his hands in passing lanes. Is a great athlete who has the explosiveness and active style to be disruptive in



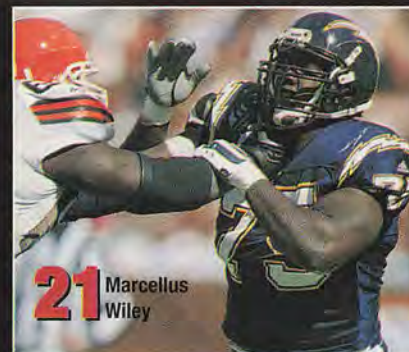
24
Justin Smith

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



2
Jevon Kearse

ROBERT SCALF / TSN



21
Marcellus Wiley

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

the running and passing games.

Weaknesses: Struggles to stack and shed blocks. Lacks the lower-body strength to anchor against the double team. Tends to rush up the field and vacate gaps. Wears down as the game goes on.

Bottom line: Had a breakout year in 2001 and will benefit from the Jets' added depth at end. A rested Abraham playing opposite another effective pass rusher could result in monster numbers.

GRADE: 8.6

T4. Hugh Douglas, Eagles

6-2 280

Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Shows an explosive first step coming off the edge and has good straight-line speed. Is active and disruptive before the snap. Has the upper-body strength to rip and club inside and likes to use a lot of double moves rushing the passer. Is relentless in pursuit and will chase plays down from behind. Has added bulk and is an explosive and powerful tackler.

Weaknesses: Still lacks ideal size, bulk and base to anchor against the run and disengage from blocks. Will fly upfield at times, taking himself out of plays. Tends to wear down late in games, which is crucial because he needs to stay active to be effective.

Bottom line: No longer is a liability against the run and remains one of the best pass rushers in the league. But the Eagles need to add some bulk around him.

GRADE: 8.6

T6. Joe Johnson, Packers

6-4 270

Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Always is around the ball and does a good job of stringing out plays. Is powerful and holds ground well at the point of attack. Uses hands well and can stack and shed blocks. Is difficult to keep blocked because he constantly moves his feet and hands. Plays with a great motor and can make plays sideline to sideline. Is active, does a good job of

closing down running lanes and has a good burst to the ball. Has an impressive bull rush.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal speed and athletic ability. Must improve his arsenal of pass-rush moves.

Bottom line: Is an underrated and consistent end who can play the run and pass. Will face fewer double teams playing on the weak side in Packers' scheme.

GRADE: 8.3

T6. Robert Porcher, Lions

6-3 282

Age: 33 11th year

Strengths: Has an explosive first step and good overall quickness. Uses hands well and utilizes inside moves as a pass rusher. Shows adequate closing speed to the quarterback. Can be a powerful tackler. Is relentless in pursuit. Is durable and shows no signs of slowing despite his age. Changes direction well.

Weaknesses: Does not always play with leverage and lacks the lower-body strength to be a consistent anchor against the run. Wears down when teams run at him. Lacks the power to bull rush most tackles.

Bottom line: Is a top 10 end who excels at rushing the passer. Will benefit from having Shaun Rogers and Kalimba Edwards on the line.

GRADE: 8.3

T8. Courtney Brown, Browns

6-4 266

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has tremendous raw tools—an excellent combination of size, strength and athleticism. Has good initial burst and closing quickness as a pass rusher. Is stronger than it might appear; will hold up at the point of attack when teams run at him. Also has some power moves to get back inside as a pass rusher.

Weaknesses: Plays with hesitation at times; needs to show more urgency. Needs to improve recognition skills and use hands better to disengage. Struggles too much in

traffic. Has yet to show consistency as a pass rusher. Knee and ankle injuries limited him to just five games last season.

Bottom line: Clearly took a step backward in 2001 but he has the skills to become an elite defensive end.

GRADE: 8.0

T8. Vonnie Holliday, Packers

6-5 290

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Shows good burst out of his stance and plays with good leverage. Has improved his ability to disengage blocks and his pursuit angles. Has outstanding lower- and upper-body strength. Has good recognition skills and does good job of using his long arms to maintain separation. Works to maintain containment and is relentless in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Does not have ideal athletic ability or closing speed to the quarterback. Lacks an explosive first step and the quickness to beat offensive tackles around the corner. As a pass rusher, he rarely shows the ability to make a double move or redirect inside.

Bottom line: Is one of the best run-stuffing ends in the league. Will play on the strong side, where he has the size and power to excel.

GRADE: 8.0

T8. Simeon Rice, Buccaneers

6-5 268

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has great upfield burst and skills for changing direction. Has explosive quickness off the edge and plenty of speed for getting around the tackle. Can make moves toward the outside or inside. Fights through blocks and sticks with plays much more than in the past. Makes big plays with tackles, stripping the ball and causing fumbles.

Weaknesses: Lacks the strength in the lower body to hold his ground. Gets overwhelmed at the point of attack by bigger, stronger offensive tackles.

ON THE RISE: Jason Taylor, Dolphins

Hard to believe a player of his caliber could get better, but he's still improving vs. the run. The addition of pass rusher Rob Burnett should boost Taylor's sacks.

ON THE DECLINE: Bruce Smith, Redskins

The future Hall of Famer is aging and no longer shows good closing speed to the quarterback. As a result, his sack production should continue to drop.

SLEEPER: Rob Burnett, Dolphins

He'll be a situational pass rusher for the Dolphins but has good upfield burst. Trace Armstrong led the AFC in sacks two years ago filling this role for Miami.

MOST VERSATILE: Michael Strahan, Giants

There is no question. Strahan is the best end in the league at stopping the run, and he broke the single-season sack record last year.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Kevin Carter, Titans

Though the Titans hope he will be healthy and that a year in this scheme will help, two sacks—Carter's total in 2001—for a player with his talent is abysmal.

BEST RUN DEFENDER: Michael Strahan, Giants

He not only can rush the passer, but he does an excellent job of stacking and shedding blocks in the running game. A complete player.

BEST PASS RUSHER: John Abraham, Jets

He gets the nod over Strahan because he plays on the right side and, as a result, works against better pass blockers.

BEST SPACE PLAYER: Jevon Kearse, Titans

He didn't put up spectacular sack numbers last season, but he still is the best athlete at the position. At times, he resembles a linebacker making plays in space.



1
Michael Strahan

JOHN DUNN FOR TSN

Bottom line: Is coming off his best season. Moves around better than in the past. Works to get through traffic and make plays against the running game. Sack totals depend upon him staying healthy.

GRADE: 8.0

T8. Grant Wistrom, Rams

6-4 272 **Age: 26 5th year**

Strengths: Has excellent awareness and tremendous recognition skills, particularly when sniffing out screen passes. Has a quick first step and the ability to drop into coverage on zone blitzes. Is a fluid athlete who has a good burst off the edge who can turn the corner as a pass rusher. Is a powerful tackler who has big-play flair. Does a nice job of shedding blocks because of his good upper-body strength.

Weaknesses: Lacks lower-body strength and the base to hold his ground against the run. Tends to wear down when he gets into too many physical battles against bigger tackles.

Bottom line: Is a active, aggressive player whose motor never turns off. Has become one of the NFL's most consistent ends.

GRADE: 8.0

12. Rob Burnett, Dolphins

6-4 270 **Age: 35 12th year**

Strengths: Has good explosiveness and power. Has quickness and great instincts. Uses hands well. Has outstanding lower-body

strength. Shows an explosive first step and good closing speed. Is comfortable in space and can make plays on the move.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size and bulk to anchor against double teams in the run game. Durability is becoming more of an issue because of age.

Bottom line: Should be productive in the Dolphins' scheme, but it is time for him to be given a reduced role.

GRADE: 7.9

T13. Chad Bratzke, Colts

6-5 272 **Age: 30 9th year**

Strengths: Has excellent intelligence and good initial quickness. Plays with a tremendous motor and always is fighting to get to the ball. Gets good leverage and is active against the run. Has adequate size and good height.

Weaknesses: Struggles at times to anchor at the point of attack. Lacks ideal lower-body strength. Wears down during the course of a game. Durability is becoming a concern.

Bottom line: Is aging but still has the quickness to be an effective starter in this scheme for at least another year.

GRADE: 7.8

T13. Phillip Daniels, Bears

6-5 284 **Age: 29 7th year**

Strengths: Has the lower-body strength and base to hold up at the point of attack. Has some pop and shows a good bull rush. Does a nice job in the two-gap scheme. Has good upper-body strength and is relentless when rushing the passer.

Weaknesses: Does not play as fast as 40 time would indicate. Does not consistently generate pressure off the edge.

Bottom line: Starter who has the size and power to control the line of scrimmage in the running game. Should continue to improve.

GRADE: 7.8

T13. Darren Howard, Saints

6-3 281 **Age: 25 3rd year**

Strengths: Has good size and athleticism. Shows a lot of moves in pursuit. Has good range and works hard to chase down plays. Bats down a lot of passes. Does not get caught guessing. Is an explosive tackler.

Weaknesses: Has average strength. Struggles vs. the run. Does not have a good base. Lacks ideal speed to turn the corner as a pass rusher.

Bottom line: Does a nice job getting back inside and closing on the quarterback. At right end, he will get upfield more often and should return to his sack production of 2000, when he had 11.

GRADE: 7.8

T16. Tony Brackens, Jaguars

6-4 265 **Age: 27 7th year**

Strengths: Is an outstanding athlete who has tremendous speed and playmaking ability. Has the explosiveness to beat most offensive tackles. Has long arms, good change of direction skills and can fight through traffic.

Weaknesses: Is not big or physical. Can be neutralized if opponents run right at him. Can be knocked back at the point of attack. Must develop more pass-rush moves.

Bottom line: Will face more double teams

and combination blocking schemes this season—and will be counted on for big-time production.

GRADE: 7.7

T16. Andre Carter, 49ers

6-4 265 **Age: 23 2nd year**

Strengths: Has adequate straight-line speed. Has added some weight and will flash some powerful moves with his upper body. Does a good job of getting upfield and then working back inside. Fires out of his stance with excellent leverage. Has improved recognition skills.

Weaknesses: Is overaggressive at times and will take himself out of plays by flying upfield. Does not play with a great base and needs to continue to add bulk and strength.

Bottom line: Is a raw, undersized starter who has the explosiveness and athletic ability as a pass rusher to develop into a Pro Bowl player. But he needs experience and better technique against the run.

GRADE: 7.7

T16. Aaron Smith, Steelers

6-5 300 **Age: 26 4th year**

Strengths: Has good combination of power and athleticism. Can hold up at the point of attack vs. the run by utilizing quickness, leverage and lower-body explosion. Can read and react and play on the move. Can beat offensive tackles with his first step. Tallied eight sacks in 2001. Has good range and strong motor. Is excellent in stunts and making backside plays.

Weaknesses: Is not a player who should stay in short area box at point of attack.

Bottom line: Is a perfect fit for strongside end in the Steelers' 3-4 defense. Has a huge upside. Is adept at playing the pass and run and will produce impressive numbers.

GRADE: 7.7

T19. Greg Ellis, Cowboys

6-6 275 **Age: 27 5th year**

Strengths: Plays the run well, has excellent size and adequate initial quickness. Is good on backside chase and will pinch down to close off running lanes. Shows a good power-rush move off the edge and does a nice job collapsing the pocket. Is relentless as a pass rusher and in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal strength.

Occasionally struggles to shed blocks after initial contact. Does not have premier speed as a pass rusher.

Bottom line: Lacks top-notch speed but works hard. Should benefit from the attention La'Roi Glover will attract on the inside.

GRADE: 7.6

T19. Leonard Little, Rams

6-3 257 **Age: 27 5th year**

Strengths: Has excellent burst off the ball and outstanding overall quickness. Can beat most tackles with his first step. Shows good closing speed to the quarterback. Adjusts on the move and plays well in space. Seems to have a natural feel for pass-rush lanes.

Weaknesses: Lacks bulk and overall strength. Struggles to hold up at the point of attack against the running game and to shed a

block once engaged.

Bottom line: Is an undersized situational pass rusher who is coming off a breakout year (14 1/2 sacks in 13 games). He will have to deal with increased attention from offenses but should continue to be a difference-maker because of his explosiveness off the edge.

GRADE: 7.6

T21. Marcus Jones, Buccaneers 6-6 278 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Wins most battles with first step. Effort rarely drops off. Chases the ball from behind. Is an exceptional open-field tackler. Displays power at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Has trouble staying healthy and on the field. Coming back from shoulder surgery. Lacks ideal straight-line speed. Production is inconsistent. Must add pass-rushing moves.

Bottom line: Is a good fit at left end who continues to improve production. **GRADE: 7.5**

T21. Bryan Robinson, Bears 6-4 283 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Is big and physical. Does an excellent job vs. the run and plays with good leverage. Has good overall strength. Can hold up in two-gap situations. Is technically sound and follows through on assignments. Is versatile enough to play inside on passing downs.

Weaknesses: Is a marginal pass rusher without great overall quickness. Lacks closing speed to the quarterback and burst around the corner. Doesn't make a lot of big plays.

Bottom line: Is excellent at stuffing the run but should be replaced on obvious passing downs. **GRADE: 7.5**

T21. Marcellus Wiley, Chargers 6-4 275 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent size, speed and athleticism. Is explosive off the ball. Has multiple pass-rush moves and is effective against the run when on the move.

Weaknesses: Won't win many one-on-one battles at the line of scrimmage. Doesn't always get off blocks when engaged and takes himself out of too many plays by being over-aggressive.

Bottom line: Coming off first Pro Bowl season, he's expected to be a productive leader of a revamped Chargers defense. **GRADE: 7.5**

T24. Trace Armstrong, Raiders 6-4 275 Age: 36 14th year

Strengths: One of the most proficient edge rushers in the NFL. Is an intelligent player who has instincts and desire. Possesses a variety of pass-rush moves—a great first step off the edge, good feet and change of direction skills.

Weaknesses: Durability is a question because he missed 2001 with a ruptured Achilles. Is not big or physical, so he can't stack at the point of attack vs. run. Is not a great athlete overall and doesn't have impressive burst, speed or agility.

Bottom line: At this stage in career, he is not capable of being plugger on run downs but

still is exceptional at rushing the passer off the edge. **GRADE: 7.4**

T24. Marco Coleman, Jaguars 6-3 270 Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Shows good initial burst, uses a lot of moves and has decent speed as a pass rusher. Has good upper-body strength and shows good pop at the point of attack. Excels at sealing off the backside and chasing down plays.

Weaknesses: Is aging and showing signs of wearing down, so durability is a concern. Lacks the lower-body strength and base to hold ground in the running game after initial contact. Is overaggressive and loses containment at times.

Bottom line: Still is a dangerous pass rusher but no longer is an every-down player. Needs 10 to 15 plays off on running downs to be productive. **GRADE: 7.4**

T24. Raylee Johnson, Chargers 6-3 272 Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Is a tough, intense player who has impressive speed. Is an excellent edge rusher who has a great first step. Can outrun most offensive tackles. Is good in space, has some explosiveness and closes well on the quarterback. Doesn't appear to have lost any speed after missing 2000 season because of a knee injury.

Weaknesses: Does not have the size or physical stature to hold up at point of attack on running plays. Struggles when offensive tackles engage him or make solid contact. Gets caught in traffic too often.

Bottom line: Never will be a stout two-gap run defender, but is a nice complement to fellow end Marcellus Wiley. **GRADE: 7.4**

T24. Lamar King, Seahawks 6-3 295 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Is an athletic player who can disrupt offenses. Has good quickness and is at his best when working on the edges. Shows ability to change directions without losing too much in transition. Has good enough speed to chase from behind.

Weaknesses: Doesn't always get in good position and doesn't play as big as his size. His inability to stay on the field and sluggishness are concerns.

Bottom line: Finally is healthy after being hobbled by injuries. Will play the wide end position against typically slower right tackles and should get upfield more often. **GRADE: 7.4**

T24. Michael McCrary, Ravens 6-4 260 Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Is an athletic edge rusher. Has a speedy first step and excellent quickness off the ball. Has many pass-rush moves. Plays with a lot of intensity. Always seems to be around the ball. Rarely is caught out of position.

Weaknesses: Struggles in physical run defenses. Does not hold up at the point of attack. Struggles against double teams. Health is a concern.

Bottom line: Starter at right end in 3-4 defense but is better suited as an edge-rushing end in

a 4-3. Production could suffer, and durability will be an issue. **GRADE: 7.4**

T24. Trevor Pryce, Broncos 6-5 295 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has an explosive first step. Does a good job of holding his ground at the point of attack. Can make plays on the move. Has a variety of pass-rush moves. Can play the run on the outside.

Weaknesses: Needs to be more consistent. Will miss some tackles trying to make the big play. Appeared to wear down at the end of games last year. Lacks the bulk needed to play inside.

Bottom line: Has the athleticism, burst and size to be just as dominant on the outside as was on the inside. Will face fewer double teams as well, a beneficial byproduct of the switch. **GRADE: 7.4**

T24. Mike Rucker, Panthers 6-5 258 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has good speed and overall athleticism. Shows the speed to turn the corner as a rusher. Is active against the run and is at best in space. Is tough and feisty at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks lower-body strength and base. Gets into a lot of trouble when locked on by bigger offensive tackles. Struggles disengaging in pass protection once locked on.

Bottom line: He improved last season in every facet of the game. With the addition of Julius Peppers, a new coaching staff and a new, aggressive defensive scheme, Rucker should have a big season. **GRADE: 7.4**

T24. Justin Smith, Bengals 6-4 270 Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Has great athletic ability and good size. Shows an explosive first step and is effective rushing the passer. Displays tremendous closing burst to the quarterback and showed a variety of pass-rush moves as a rookie. Can hold ground vs. the run. Shows strong hands and plays with a good base. Plays with good leverage. Plays with a non-stop motor and is excellent in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Is overaggressive at times and will fly upfield. Needs to play with better discipline. Wastes motion when rushing the passer and needs to learn to cut down angles.

Bottom line: Is a second-year starter. With improved strength and experience, has the potential to develop into an excellent well-rounded end. **GRADE: 7.4**

T32. Duane Clemons, Chiefs 6-5 277 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has an excellent first step, is explosive and will beat offensive lineman with quickness. Uses hands extremely well, gets good separation, and has an excellent closing burst to the quarterback.

Weaknesses: Lacks lower-body strength and explosion. Not a player effective at the point of attack and has trouble reading and reacting. Struggles vs. double teams and when lined up opposite a big offensive lineman. **Bottom line:** Is an upfield player. Probably is

the Chiefs' best hope for big plays in pass-rush situations. **GRADE: 7.3**

T32. Bobby Hamilton, Patriots

6-5 280 Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Can hold up at the point of attack. Has good quickness. Plays with leverage. Works hard to get upfield and never quits on a play. Takes good angles to the ball. Is an excellent tackler.

Weaknesses: Is not an edge rusher. Does not match up well on an island. Needs to improve use of hands at the point of attack. Needs to develop a second pass-rush move.

Bottom line: The Patriots' starting left end who must become a more effective pass rusher. **GRADE: 7.3**

T32. Anthony Pleasant, Patriots

6-5 280 Age: 34 13th year

Strengths: Has excellent upper-body strength. Does a good job playing off blocks and getting to the ball. Uses quickness to disrupt the blocking angles of slower guards. Has a variety of pass-rush moves.

Weaknesses: Is not a great space player; can't fire in off the edge with great effect. Does not make many big plays. Needs to contribute more as a run defender.

Bottom line: Is nearing end of his career but should be productive for at least another couple of years. Is New England's most consistent defensive lineman. **GRADE: 7.3**

T32. Aaron Schobel, Bills

6-4 265 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has good natural ability and excellent speed as a pass rusher. Has a quick first step and shows burst turning the corner. Is relentless in pursuit. Chases down plays from sideline to sideline.

Weaknesses: Must be on the move at all times; cannot afford to lock on in the running game.

Bottom line: Flashed loads of potential as a pass rusher in his rookie year and should improve with experience, especially against the run. **GRADE: 7.3**

T32. Kimo von Oelhoffen, Steelers

6-4 300 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: A proud leader of the Steelers' defense who has a good first step and explosion off the ball. Has good forward lean and shows strong effort to get to quarterback and on chase plays. Utilizes good leverage, can hold up at point of attack vs. run and is effective on stunts and blitzes.

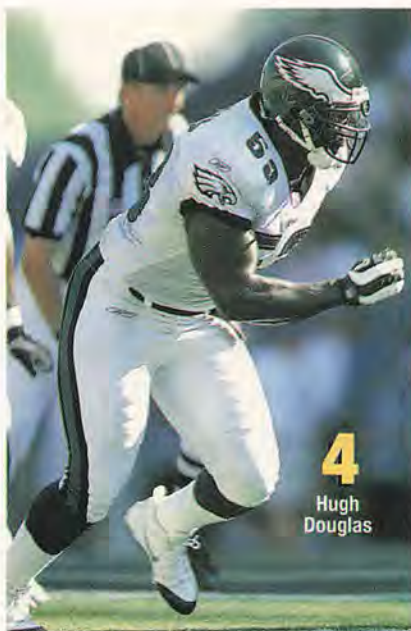
Weaknesses: Has been slowed a bit by nagging injuries. Lacks pass-rush moves and pure speed.

Bottom line: A solid player who impresses with his ability to stack and shed at line of scrimmage. Makes up for athletic deficiencies with work ethic and effort. **GRADE: 7.3**

T32. Renaldo Wynn, Redskins

6-3 280 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Uses his hands to stack and shed blocks in the running game. Does a nice job locating the ball and chasing down plays.



4
Hugh Douglas

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

Has good leverage and initial quickness. Wraps up as a tackler. Is relentless in pursuit and plays with a nonstop motor.

Weaknesses: Does not have good straight-line speed and lacks the pass-rush moves to be an effective interior pass rusher. Lacks explosiveness.

Bottom line: Is versatile enough to start on the inside or the outside but isn't dominant at either position. **GRADE: 7.3**

T38. Lorenzo Bromell, Vikings

6-6 268 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Shows an explosive first step and the ability to get upfield quickly. Has excellent athletic ability and can make plays on the move. Shows great closing speed to the quarterback and does a good job chasing down plays.

Weaknesses: Does not play with good leverage consistently and will get driven back in the running game. Lacks a variety of pass-rush moves and needs to do a better job of forcing offensive lineman to redirect in pass protection.

Bottom line: First-year starter who is better at defending the pass than the run and is likely to struggle before developing into an effective starter. **GRADE: 7.2**

T38. Brandon Mitchell, Seahawks

6-3 280 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has good athletic ability and movement. Comes off the ball with good quickness. Plays with some leverage. Makes plays on the move and in space. Will win most battles with quickness.

Weaknesses: Has problems stopping the momentum of offensive linemen, then shedding blocks. Hasn't been consistent. Tends to disappear at times and not make a lot of plays.

Bottom line: A versatile lineman who could start at right end for the Seahawks but would be replaced on passing downs by linebacker Chad Brown. Mitchell will be a prominent part of the Seahawks' rotation. **GRADE: 7.2**

T38. Brady Smith, Falcons

6-5 274 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Does a nice job of closing down the edge and chasing plays from behind. Is athletic with good speed and nonstop hustle. Shows good closing speed to the quarterback. Is active and will disrupt upfield. Is a solid tackler.

Weaknesses: Is constantly battling minor upper-body injuries. Tends to wear down. Lacks great lower-body strength. Does not show good two-gap qualities and struggles against double teams.

Bottom line: Likely will start on right side in Falcons' 3-4 scheme, but he might wind up as nothing more than a situational edge rusher. **GRADE: 7.2**

T38. Bruce Smith, Redskins

6-4 261 Age: 39 18th year

Strengths: Still has good burst off the edge. Is technically sound. Has good change of direction skills and does a good job using club and swim moves to redirect inside as a pass rusher. Has excellent recognition skills.

Weaknesses: Has lost closing speed coming off the edge and no longer plays with a nonstop motor. Lacks the overall base and strength to hold ground at the point of attack in the running game. Struggles to disengage blocks.

Bottom line: Has the initial quickness to produce as a situational pass rusher but no longer has premier speed. **GRADE: 7.2**

T42. Tony Bryant, Raiders

6-6 280 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is a steady player who has good overall athletic ability, excellent quickness and speed. Has an excellent first step and burst to ball. Excels as a pass rusher off the edge. Is aggressive and can get off blocks.

Weaknesses: Is not flashy. Is not a read-and-react player and doesn't hold up at the point of attack against the run. Gets overwhelmed by big, physical offensive linemen.

Bottom line: Needs to improve on pass-rushing production to help the Raiders early in the season. **GRADE: 7.1**

T42. Roderick Coleman, Raiders

6-2 265 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is tough to block man to man because of his exceptional quickness. Has outstanding awareness and never stops attacking and playing at full speed. Uses hands well. Changes directions well and plays with both pop and leverage at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Is not big or very physical for an interior lineman. Sometimes overpursues and takes himself out of plays. Physically unable to matchup in a confined area against a power player.

Bottom line: Playing alongside veteran run-stopping defensive lineman John Parrella will help Coleman to have a productive first season as a starter. **GRADE: 7.1**

T42. Regan Upshaw, Raiders

6-4 260 Age: 27 7th year

Strengths: Has great athletic ability and

speed coming off the edge as a pass rusher. Shows outstanding quickness with the snap of the ball. Takes good angles and has a closing burst toward the quarterback. Hustles for the entire play, every play.

Weaknesses: Is recovering from a knee injury. Lacks bulk to hold up against the run. Needs to show more discipline; takes too many penalties and gets caught out of position. Is not completely developed as a pass rusher off the edge.

Bottom line: Is a hard worker who makes up for any weakness with desire and an aggressive style. **GRADE: 7.1**

T45. John Engelberger, 49ers

6-4 260

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent quickness. Is technically sound and disciplined coming off the edge. Constantly works to avoid contact and does a nice job disengaging blocks and locating the ballcarrier. Displays excellent recognition skills and an explosive first step. Has a good motor and is relentless in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Lacks the lower-body strength and base to anchor against the run. Doesn't show good closing speed to the quarterback.

Bottom line: Has been a solid starter for the 49ers but has not developed into the play-making pass rusher they envisioned. Is part of a three-end rotation. **GRADE: 7.0**

T45. Eric Hicks, Chiefs

6-6 280

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Uses hands extremely well to get off blocks, gives excellent backside chase and makes more tackles than it appears. Has good straight-line speed and is an instinctive player who rarely is out of position.

Weaknesses: Not very explosive and can be overpowered. Needs to develop a better repertoire of pass-rush moves because offensive linemen know what is coming from him. Isn't good in two-gap situations, where read and react are needed.

Bottom line: Is a starter and solid player. But the Chiefs need more big plays and explosiveness than he delivers. **GRADE: 7.0**

T45. Kenny Holmes, Giants

6-4 270

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Uses several moves and power to rush the passer. Is active and relentless in pursuit. Shows good overall ability.

Weaknesses: Lacks the change of direction abilities and pure speed to turn the corner consistently rushing the passer. Overextends as a rusher and takes himself out of the play. Is not explosive out of stance. Lacks the bulk and lower-body strength to hold ground at the point of attack in the running game. Suffered a knee injury last season, so there are durability concerns.

Bottom line: Should take advantage of one-on-one matchups opposite of teammate Michael Strahan but failed to in first season and was exposed in the expansion draft. **GRADE: 7.0**

T45. Kenard Lang, Browns

6-4 281

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is big and strong at the point of

attack. Plays with leverage. Uses hands well to shed and chase. Can be effective inside as a pass rusher on a situational basis.

Weaknesses: Is not a premier pass rusher. Lacks great speed, burst and closing quickness. Does not have much big-play flair. Is aging and wears down late in games/seasons.

Bottom line: A Browns starter who is at his best when used to stop the run on first and second down. **GRADE: 7.0**

T45. Kenny Mixon, Vikings

6-4 275

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Shows the strength to anchor against the run and has excellent size. Uses hands to stack and shed blockers at the point of attack. Has the footwork to make tackles in space and excels on stunts. Displays good recognition skills and plays with an outstanding motor.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent and has a tendency to come off the stance too high. Lacks the closing speed and upfield burst factor as a pass rusher.

Bottom line: Starter who will improve the Vikings' run defense. Does not apply pressure in the passing game and should be replaced on passing downs. **GRADE: 7.0**

T45. Brad Scioli, Colts

6-3 280

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is aggressive and plays with a mean streak. Is disruptive against the run. Has quick feet. Shows some closing speed to the quarterback. Takes excellent angles to the ballcarrier.

Weaknesses: Lacks the overall speed of a dominant edge rusher. Lacks the ability to disrupt plays in the passing lanes. Struggles to anchor against bigger offensive tackles. Naging injuries affected his play last year.

Bottom line: Is active but lacks power. Despite that, he likely will be a productive starter in coach Tony Dungy's schemes, which are predicated on shooting gaps and anchoring less. **GRADE: 7.0**

T45. Kyle Vanden Bosch, Cardinals

6-4 270

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Makes a lot of plays in the running game because of instinct and effort. Shows adequate strength at the point of attack. Uses his long arms to keep separation. Has good hands, which help disengage blocks.

Weaknesses: Lacks lower-body strength, which hurts him when teams run right at him. Has to work constantly to keep blockers off his body.

Bottom line: Won't be a consistent double-digit sack man but is a solid player who showed potential in an injury-shortened rookie season. **GRADE: 7.0**

T52. Jared DeVries, Lions

6-4 280

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is tough, physical, strong and quick. Is fluid and active coming off the edge. Contains and seals off the backside. Will chase down plays.

Weaknesses: Lacks lower-body strength and



Robert Porcher

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

closing speed to the quarterback. Has had problems staying healthy.

Bottom line: Situational run stuffer who lacks bulk. Has durability concerns and should be replaced on passing downs. **GRADE: 6.9**

T52. Ebenezer Ekuban, Cowboys

6-3 282

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Gets off the line quickly and plays with good leverage. Has started to develop into a complete player. Has a tremendous work ethic. Has added bulk to improve ability to anchor against the run.

Weaknesses: Lacks the power and lower-body strength to slip the double team or hold ground at point of attack. Lacks ideal explosiveness and speed off the edge.

Bottom line: Has the potential to become an effective starter again. **GRADE: 6.9**

T52. Rick Lyle, Patriots

6-5 290

Age: 31 7th year

Strengths: Is a try-hard player who will fight to make plays. Plays with good strength and leverage. Does a good job of holding his ground.

Weaknesses: Lacks speed and quickness. Cannot chase down plays from the back side. Age and durability are becoming increasing concern.

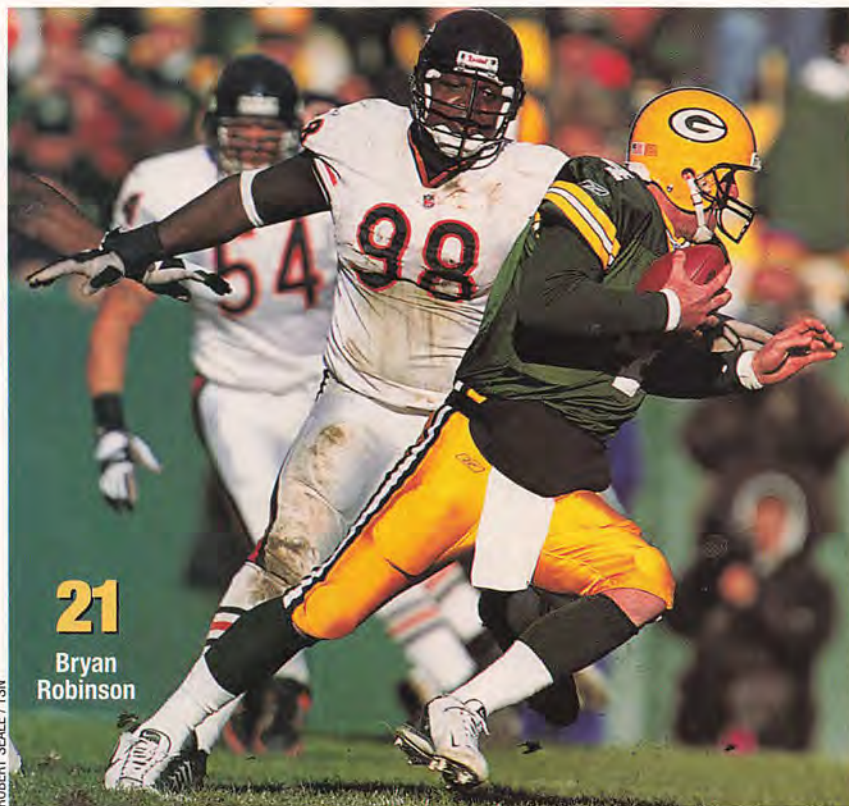
Bottom line: Is a perfect fit for coach Bill Belichick's two-gap schemes. Should be a valuable player on first and second downs. **GRADE: 6.9**

T52. Willie McGinest, Patriots

6-5 270

Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Makes big plays, especially vs. the pass. Uses his speed and athleticism to chase down quarterbacks and make plays in space. Shows the ability to drop off in pass coverage.



21

Bryan Robinson

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

Weaknesses: Nagging injuries are starting to mount. Doesn't have the quickness or explosiveness coming off the edge that he used to. Struggles to play off blocks. Lacks lower-body power and explosiveness.

Bottom line: Should be a good fit for New England's new 4-3 defense because he can be used as a change-up edge rusher. That will help to keep him healthier and protect him in run situations.

GRADE: 6.9

T52. Jay Williams, Dolphins

6-3 280 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Shows good upper-body strength and powerful hands. Does a good job of splitting the double team. Is relentless in pursuit and plays hard.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve pass-rushing skills. Does not have good change of direction skills. Does not show good burst or quickness off the ball. Lacks closing burst to the passer.

Bottom line: Lacks big-play ability as a full-time starter, but he will be a good fit as a wave end who can come in and contribute 10 to 15 plays per game.

GRADE: 6.9

T57. Vaughn Booker, Bengals

6-5 300 Age: 34 9th year

Strengths: Shows the ability to anchor against the run. Does a good job of stacking and disengaging blocks at the point of attack. Has decent athletic ability. Plays with excellent overall instincts.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal power. Is aging and appears to wear down late in games. Does not have great change of direction skills and cannot make the offensive tackle redirect when rushing the passer.

Bottom line: Is a solid run-stuffer who will not make a lot of big plays and will be replaced on passing downs.

GRADE: 6.8

T57. Kevin Carter, Titans

6-5 280 Age: 28 8th year

Strengths: Has good size. Shows a variety of pass-rush moves and the ability to apply pressure on opposing quarterbacks.

Weaknesses: Does not show the same explosiveness late in a game and tends to wear down. Does not do a good job of using his hands.

Bottom line: Was brought in to give the Titans one of the best pass rushes in the league, and it was hoped he would generate pressure and turnovers. The team still is waiting.

GRADE: 6.8

T57. Antonio Cochran, Seahawks

6-4 290 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good size and the lower-body strength to take up space. Can keep separation at the point of attack and clog gaps. Displays good burst to the quarterback. Plays with a good motor.

Weaknesses: Tends to play too high and doesn't consistently hold up inside. Lacks ability at the point of attack. Lacks a second pass-rush move.

Bottom line: A powerful, two-gap end who could start at right end on first and second downs. Also can play tackle and could slide inside on passing downs.

GRADE: 6.8

T57. Shaun Ellis, Jets

6-5 294 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size. Won't stop trying to get to the ball until the whistle blows. Does a good job locating the ballcarrier. Has

good lower-body strength and a good feel for rushing the passer.

Weaknesses: Lacks a great first step. Must be moved around to be effective.

Bottom line: Has the skills to develop into an effective starter but has been inconsistent and will have to fight to keep his starting job.

GRADE: 6.8

T57. Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila, Packers

6-4 253 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Shows great initial quickness and overall burst. Does a good job of anticipating the snap and gets off the ball quickly. Does a nice job avoiding contact and has excellent change of direction skills.

Weaknesses: Struggles to disengage blocks.

Lacks bulk and the base to anchor at the point of attack. Wore down late last season.

Bottom line: An explosive pass-rushing specialist who lacks the size to defend the run but has the speed and athleticism to contribute 10 to 15 plays per game in passing situations.

GRADE: 6.8

T57. Lance Johnstone, Vikings

6-4 253 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Displays strong recognition skills. Does a good job with hands and flashes ability to shed blocks quickly. Has good athletic ability and is capable of making plays in space. Plays with a great motor and is excellent in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Is extremely undersized.

Appears to wear down during the season. Lacks ideal speed and relies on technique as a pass rusher. Has some durability concerns.

Bottom line: Former starter who lacks ideal size and is a better fit as a situational player in about 20 snaps per game.

GRADE: 6.8

T57. Fred Wakefield, Cardinals

6-7 289 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and above-average upper-body strength. Is relentless chasing the ball.

Weaknesses: Lacks great speed and lower-body strength. Does not have a great base against the run. His power pass-rushing moves are just adequate.

Bottom line: Would be better suited to play outside on running downs and move inside to rush the passer in the nickel package.

GRADE: 6.8

T64. Thomas Burke, Cardinals

6-3 271 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Makes up for average natural skills with effort and good technique and instincts. Has good lower-body strength.

Weaknesses: Lacks adequate speed as an edge rusher and is not a threat to turn the corner. Lacks ideal size and upper-body strength.

Bottom line: Is a high-effort reserve who lacks great skills but can spell the starter for 10 to 15 plays a game.

GRADE: 6.7

T64. Al Fontenot, Chargers

6-4 287 Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Has good intensity and aggressiveness. Plays well on the move and uses hands

well. Has many pass-rush moves. Can slip blocks and takes proper angles to the ball.
Weaknesses: Lacks lower-body power and cannot stack at the line of scrimmage. Does not have great speed as a pass rusher and appears a step slow at times coming off the edge. Lacks the wingspan to keep blockers off him and has trouble shedding blocks when engaged.

Bottom line: Is a versatile backup who can play end or tackle in passing situations.
GRADE: 6.7

T64. Chukie Nwokorie, Colts

6-3 280 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has excellent athletic ability and the bulk and strength to anchor the run defense. Closes well on the quarterback and has the potential to develop into a solid pass rusher.

Weaknesses: At times is hesitant at the line of scrimmage. Lacks good overall instincts. Has problems staying healthy.

Bottom line: A developmental player who should benefit from a scheme that will allow him to get upfield and use his athleticism. Will provide quality depth, contributing 10 to 15 snaps a game.
GRADE: 6.7

T64. Rich Owens, Chiefs

6-6 288 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Is an active player who has a good motor. Plays with leverage and natural knee bend. Is solid vs. the run and will use hands to stack and shed at point of attack. Effective inside rusher who plays with surprising power.

Weaknesses: Does not have great first step. Needs to develop better pass-rush moves off the edge. Naggng injuries and durability are concerns.

Bottom line: Won't make a lot of big plays coming off the edge but is solid against the run.
GRADE: 6.7

T64. Tyrone Rogers, Browns

6-5 236 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is a pass-rush specialist with good initial burst. Has good quickness, change of direction skills and closing speed on the quarterback. Has big-play flair as an edge rusher. Showed improved recognition skills, hands, ability to disengage blockers and open-field tackling last season.

Weaknesses: Is a vastly undersized run defender. Has trouble holding up at the point of attack and is a real liability when teams run at him. Will get engulfed if reached in the passing game and is not much of a threat to get back inside as a rusher.

Bottom line: Took advantage of added playing time at end of 2001 season but main role remains as a nickel rusher. Should get 10 to 15 plays per game in the line rotation.
GRADE: 6.7

T64. Greg Spires, Buccaneers

6-1 265 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Most effective when chasing the ball and making plays on the move. Displays good instincts and seems never to slow down.

Weaknesses: Unable to anchor at the point of attack. Gets physically overpowered by bigger offensive tackles. Must make more consistent use of leverage.

Bottom line: Is a situational pass-rushing end. Is not big enough to play every down but gets plenty of action as part of the team's four-end rotation.
GRADE: 6.7

T64. Willie Whitehead, Saints

6-3 285 Age: 29 4th year

Strengths: Can play inside or outside. Always is active. Plays with a good base. Has long arms to maintain separation. Has good change of direction skills.

Weaknesses: Does not have great strength or speed. Has trouble anchoring when teams run at him. Wears down easily. Tends to get knocked back off his feet. Does not show the ability to bull rush.

Bottom line: Never has been a full-time starter. Will play on first and second downs and give way to Charles Grant on passing downs.
GRADE: 6.7

T64. Chuck Wiley, Vikings

6-5 277 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Is explosive and has a quick first step. Uses hands well. Shows good closing speed to the ball. Has good change of direction skills and can make plays in the open field.

Weaknesses: Has limited instincts and recognition skills. Needs to add lower-body strength and will struggle to hold ground in the running game. Has trouble maintaining leverage and will struggle against bigger offensive linemen.

Bottom line: Reserve who has excellent potential. Should improve instincts, recognition skills and ability to play the run.
GRADE: 6.7

T72. Chike Okeafor, 49ers

6-4 254 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Displays good initial burst and the closing speed to turn the corner as an edge rusher. Has quick hands and feet. Shows the ability to make moves inside.

Weaknesses: Does not have great recognition skills, and his effort is inconsistent. Lacks the lower-body strength to consistently anchor at the point of attack. Has problems staying healthy.

Bottom line: Situational pass rusher who is good for 10 to 15 snaps a game but lacks consistency and durability.
GRADE: 6.6

T72. Reinard Wilson, Bengals

6-2 272 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Showed better variety of pass-rush moves last season. Is explosive off the ball and can beat most offensive tackles with speed. Displays elite change of direction skills and does a good job of forcing the defensive lineman to redirect in pass protection.

Weaknesses: Does not have size or strength to hold ground in the running game. Needs to play with better discipline and has a tendency to fly upfield every snap.

Bottom line: Is a situational pass rusher who

is explosive but somewhat of a liability in the running game.
GRADE: 6.6

T72. Peppi Zellner, Cowboys

6-5 262 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Shows good speed coming off the edge. Has the size to block passing lanes and the strength to hold ground on running downs. Plays with a mean streak and is an excellent special teams player.

Weaknesses: Lacks strong recognition skills and bites on play-action too often. Does not have many pass-rush moves. Has some durability concerns.

Bottom line: Is coming off a solid season but must add bulk and improve his technique.
GRADE: 6.6

T75. Derrick Burgess, Eagles

6-2 266 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Plays with a good motor and is excellent in pursuit. Has an explosive first step and plays with leverage. Shows some closing burst to the quarterback and uses a lot of upper-body moves.

Weaknesses: Needs to add bulk and improve his base when anchoring against the run.

Bottom line: Is a situational pass rusher who is quicker than fast. Is relentless in every aspect of the game and should play a bigger role with added size and an improved ability to play the run.
GRADE: 6.5

T75. Jabari Issa, Texans

6-5 296 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Is a power player who has strong hands. Can stack and shed at the point of attack and be effective in two-gap situations. Has good strength and is aggressive.

Weaknesses: Lacks range and quickness and has limited athletic ability. Lacks great instincts. Does not get a lot of penetration or make many plays in the backfield.

Bottom line: Starter who will be effective in the short term, but the Texans probably will try to upgrade this position soon.
GRADE: 6.5

T75. Billy Lyon, Packers

6-5 295 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Can play anywhere on the line. Has good size and shows a lot of nice pass-rush moves. Is quick enough to generate occasional pressure from the inside as a tackle.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal speed and athleticism as a pass rusher at end and ideal bulk and strength as an interior run stuffer.

Bottom line: Isn't dominant in any area but is an ideal backup because of his versatility and experience. Should contribute 15 to 20 plays per game.
GRADE: 6.5

T75. Sean Moran, 49ers

6-4 275 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Possesses an explosive first step and lower-body strength. Shows the ability to anchor against double teams and take up blockers and space. Has good recognition skills and takes good angles to the ball. Can play end or tackle and plays with a great motor.

Weaknesses: Lacks closing speed to the quarterback and does not have ideal bulk.

Bottom line: Is a versatile, situational

run-stuffer who lacks ideal size but plays with sound technique. Good enough to use in spots to keep the starters fresh. **GRADE: 6.5**

T79. Rodney Bailey, Steelers

6-3 300 **Age: 22 2nd year**

Strengths: Impressive speed enables him to cover a lot of ground. Has good first-step quickness and uses hands well to get off blocks. Can play in range and chases down plays from the backside.

Weaknesses: Is a raw, inexperienced player who lacks physical power and size. Doesn't have much burst or suddenness and appears to be straight-line player. Does not play as fast as 40 time indicates. Needs to develop pass-rush moves.

Bottom line: His speed will put him in mix as a wave lineman. Must improve skills.

GRADE: 6.4

T79. Chris Combs, Steelers

6-2 286 **Age: 25 3rd year**

Strengths: Is versatile; can play tackle and end. A quick, move-type lineman who can penetrate with good initial quickness and a strong motor. Works hard to get off ball and uses hands well.

Weaknesses: Is not a typical speed rusher on the left side and is not very productive on perimeter. Was inactive for most of 2001 and lacks experience. Lacks power at point of attack and can not read and react as a two-gap lineman.

Bottom line: Will not be effective as a head-up plugger-type but can succeed as an inside penetrator. Possesses good motor and solid skills making him a formidable young backup.

GRADE: 6.4

T79. Adrian Dingle, Chargers

6-3 272 **Age: 25 4th year**

Strengths: A hard worker who relies on first-step explosion and short-area quickness. Is active against the run and gives good effort.

Weaknesses: Is short and not very physical. Can be engulfed by a big offensive tackle. Lacks instincts and plays too much in a straight line. Lacks the speed and athleticism desired in an edge rusher.

Bottom line: The Chargers must be selective in using Dingle, but he can provide quality depth.

GRADE: 6.4

T79. Marques Douglas, Ravens

6-2 270 **Age: 25 4th year**

Strengths: Gives good effort. Is at his best when making plays on the move and in space. Has nice short-area range. Is a good inside tackler.

Weaknesses: Lacks great speed. Lacks the bulk to hold up against the run and often is overpowered at the point of attack.

Bottom line: On a solid defensive line, probably would be a No. 7 or No. 8 lineman who could fill in at end or tackle, but his role on this defense might be more significant. Will back up at end.

GRADE: 6.4

T79. DeLawrence Grant, Raiders

6-3 280 **Age: 22 1st year**

Strengths: Is an active player who has an

outstanding first step and quickness. Is more effective on the move and hustles to make plays.

Weaknesses: Lacks physical power and has trouble when engaged by an offensive tackle. Is unable to hold up at the point of attack on first or second down.

Bottom line: Lacks size and strength to be a complete player but is a threat when rushing the passer off the edge. Is valuable on special teams.

GRADE: 6.4



24
Trevor Pryce

CLIFF GRASSMICK FOR TSN

T79. Reggie Hayward, Broncos

6-5 255 **Age: 23 2nd year**

Strengths: Excels at rushing the passer. Has an explosive first step and excellent initial quickness. Always is looking to strip the ball. Has good height.

Weaknesses: Lacks bulk and the ability to anchor against the run. Struggles to disengage the blocker. Needs to develop some inside pass-rush moves.

Bottom line: A developmental player who has progressed rapidly; has the potential to develop into a dangerous pass rusher.

GRADE: 6.4

T79. Jevon Langford, Bengals

6-3 270 **Age: 28 7th year**

Strengths: Has a solid combination of size and speed. Explodes off the snap and shows a good first step. Flashes the ability to develop into a dominant pass rusher.

Weaknesses: Lacks football intelligence and overall instincts. Has a tendency to come out of stance too high and will struggle to hold ground in the running game.

Bottom line: Reserve who has excellent potential. Does not appear to be developing. His main contribution will be on special teams.

GRADE: 6.4

T79. Rob Meier, Jaguars

6-5 285 **Age: 25 3rd year**

Strengths: Is strong at the point of attack

and makes tackles inside. Does a good job of using his hands to separate. Works hard to collapse the pocket.

Weaknesses: Does not make a lot of big plays. Beats few players with his first step. Is not a great pass rusher.

Bottom line: Is a solid backup who knows his role and gives great effort.

GRADE: 6.4

T79. Eric Ogbogu, Bengals

6-4 280 **Age: 27 5th year**

Strengths: Is at his best rushing the passer or chasing down plays. Has good size. Shows the change of direction skills to make plays in space and does a good job of breaking down in the open field.

Weaknesses: Effort is inconsistent; has not developed as expected. Does not show the ability to disengage blocks quickly and appears to take plays that are run to the other side off.

Bottom line: Reserve who has potential. Until effort improves, he will not make a significant contribution.

GRADE: 6.4

T79. Jamal Reynolds, Packers

6-3 266 **Age: 23 2nd year**

Strengths: A tremendous athlete who has good speed. Has an explosive first step. Can make plays in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Lacks the bulk to anchor against the run and needs to improve his recognition skills. Is overaggressive at times and misses tackles trying to make big plays.

Bottom line: A No. 1 pick in 2001, he appeared uncomfortable at times last season. Has the explosiveness to play a bigger role as a situational pass rusher.

GRADE: 6.4

T79. Talance Sawyer, Vikings

6-2 270 **Age: 26 4th year**

Strengths: Plays with good leverage and comes off the ball hard. Has great burst off the corner as a pass rusher. Shows good change of direction skills and the ability to make plays in space.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size and will struggle to hold ground in the running game. Lacks ability to stack and shed blocks quickly. Will struggle working against bigger offensive linemen.

Bottom line: Former starter who struggled in that role but has quickness and athletic ability to be effective in a situational role.

GRADE: 6.4

T79. Steve White, Jets

6-2 271 **Age: 28 7th year**

Strengths: Has good instincts and recognition skills. Shows a quick first step and can make plays behind the line of scrimmage.

Weaknesses: Lacks overall speed and a good closing burst to the quarterback. Does not show a variety of pass-rush moves. Lacks premier size and struggles to hold his ground.

Bottom line: Is a good fit for this scheme as a reserve because he gives excellent effort and won't be asked to do much in the passing game.

GRADE: 6.4

T91. David Bowens, Dolphins

6-3 260 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good straight-line speed. Shows an explosive first step and good athletic ability. Has a good work ethic. Has improved markedly.

Weaknesses: Lacks the lower-body strength to anchor against the run and lacks the upper-body strength to separate. Doesn't have ideal size for a defensive end. Lacks good recognition skills and sometimes has trouble locating the ballcarrier.

Bottom line: Will benefit from working against right tackles—who generally are better run blockers than pass blockers—but must be more consistent and work on recognition skills. **GRADE: 6.3**

T91. Erik Flowers, Bills

6-4 273 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Shows tremendous initial quickness and beats most offensive tackles off the ball. Has great speed and good overall ability.

Weaknesses: Has not shown any signs of improving his pass-rush arsenal and must in order to excel. Allows linemen to get into his body too often and struggles to disengage blocks at times.

Bottom line: A former first-round pick who is dangerously close to being labeled an underachiever. Is capable of contributing 10 to 15 plays a game as a pass-rush specialist. **GRADE: 6.3**

T91. David Nugent, Patriots

6-4 295 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has good speed and athleticism. Knows how to get to the ball and will work to get back into the play. Is a one-gap, penetrating type tackle.

Weaknesses: Doesn't always anchor and needs to play with more leverage. Needs to work on techniques. Must make more plays and be more consistent.

Bottom line: Can provide a change of pace and rest for the Patriots' starting linemen but is not ready to start. **GRADE: 6.3**

T91. Josh Taves, Raiders

6-7 280 Age: 30 3rd year

Strengths: Has great size. Pushes the pocket as an interior lineman and uses long arms to his advantage. Good strength, power and unyielding effort. Finishes plays and makes tackles by pursuing from the back side.

Weaknesses: Lacks athletic ability to pass rush on the edge. Has limited range and lateral movement. Is inconsistent.

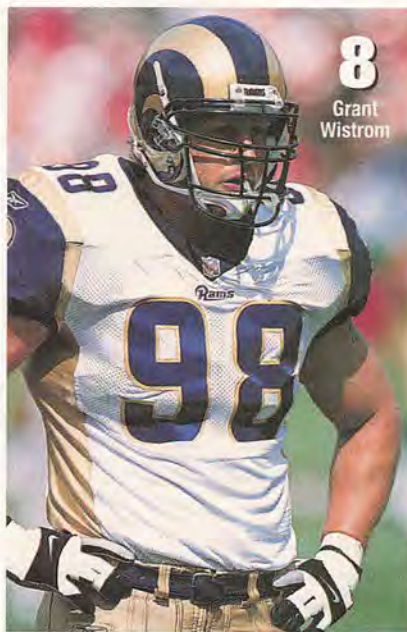
Bottom line: Spent much of 2001 in the coach's doghouse and was not a factor by the end of the season. Does not excel at tackle or end. **GRADE: 6.3**

T91. Mao Tosi, Cardinals

6-6 341 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent size and above-average athletic ability. Can play with good balance and shows the ability to change directions.

Weaknesses: Showed up to minicamp last year at nearly 340 pounds. Was too stiff, had



ROBERT SEALE / TSN

poor lateral movement, could not create penetration and tired easily.

Bottom line: A versatile backup who provides quality depth when he keeps his weight down. **GRADE: 6.3**

T91. Keith Washington, Broncos

6-4 275 Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Is at his best when attacking upfield. Has excellent straight-line speed and good change of direction skills. Shows ability to make plays in space.

Weaknesses: Does not have the upper body strength to generate a good initial punch. Struggles to hold ground at the point of attack. Needs to be more aggressive and more physical.

Bottom line: Will benefit from starting experience last season but essentially is a career backup. Will remain in that role until he shows improved strength and power. **GRADE: 6.3**

97. Paul Spicer, Jaguars

6-4 292 Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Gives great effort. Has intelligence and instincts. Reads blocks well and plays with good leverage and base.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size to hold up vs. the run. Is short for an end. Is not a two-gap player who can stack at the point of attack.

Bottom line: Won't make a lot of mistakes—or a lot of plays. **GRADE: 6.2**

98. Kavika Pittman, Broncos

6-6 273 Age: 27 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent athletic ability. Shows good initial quickness and change of direction skills. Does a good job of using his hands.

Weaknesses: Lacks strength; will struggle to hold ground at the point of attack. Does not have great football intelligence. Durability is a concern because he suffered a calf injury late last season.

Bottom line: Will have to regain pass-rushing ability he flashed earlier in his career to make a significant impact this season. **GRADE: 6.1**

T99. Byron Frisch, Cowboys

6-5 267 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Shows ability to consistently pressure quarterbacks. Fires off the ball and has good speed for his size. Can use slap and club moves as a pass rusher.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size to anchor against the running game. Doesn't always play with good leverage. Allows linemen to get into his body too often.

Bottom line: Has a chance to develop into an effective situational pass rusher but must be more consistent. **GRADE: 6.0**

T99. Adewale Ogunleye, Dolphins

6-4 270 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent size. Shows good straight-line speed and has good initial quickness. Can change directions quickly. Shows good recognition skills. Rarely makes mistakes.

Weaknesses: Is extremely inconsistent. Durability is a concern because of injury problems and weight issues. Is a better athlete than player and must play with more of a mean streak. Lacks ideal strength.

Bottom line: Has the work ethic to succeed but remains a developmental player. Must show improvement this season. **GRADE: 6.0**

T99. Karon Riley, Bears

6-2 264 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good straight-line speed and upside as a pass rusher. Shows some initial quickness and can turn the corner. Is fluid. Shows nice double moves back inside and has good burst.

Weaknesses: Plays smaller than his undersized frame. Lacks lower-body strength and base to hold up against the run. Has not been able to stay healthy.

Bottom line: Must show a lot more burst and the ability to disengage blocks once reached. Probably will get time in the nickel pass-rushing role. **GRADE: 6.0**

T102. Chidi Ahanotu, free agent

6-2 285 Age: 31 8th year

Started 16 games for St. Louis last season after eight years in Tampa Bay. No longer holds up well at the point of attack but always has been an active, try-hard player. A better pass rusher than run defender who has an excellent motor. **GRADE: 5.9**

T102. Dorian Boose, Texans

6-5 292 Age: 28 5th year

Reserve who has a fairly athletic edge. Has experience but lacks production. Always has come up short of expectations. **GRADE: 5.9**

T102. John Hilliard, Seahawks

6-2 294 Age: 26 3rd year

Has good size for an end and adequate quickness for a tackle. Lacks the height and speed of an end and power of an inside player. Should be an emergency backup at both end positions. **GRADE: 5.9**

T102. Keith McKenzie, free agent

6-3 273 Age: 28 7th year

Undersized starter in Cleveland last season who



8
Courtney Brown

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

finished the season on IR because of an ankle injury. A one-gap type who wins battles with quickness and a great first step. Has good athletic ability but must keep moving. Is not a two-gap run defender.

GRADE: 5.9

T102. Corey Sears, Texans

6-3 300 Age: 29 4th year
Reserve who has had playing time with St. Louis and Arizona but did not play in 2001 and will try to revive his career as backup.

GRADE: 5.9

T102. Robaire Smith, Titans

6-4 280 Age: 24 3rd year
Is versatile enough to play end and tackle. Gives the Titans another versatile reserve but will struggle to stop the run until he improves his technique.

GRADE: 5.9

T102. Gary Stills, Chiefs

6-2 235 Age: 28 4th year
A good athlete who does not have explosiveness or quickness. Never will be good enough to be a nickel rusher but may hang on because of special teams production.

GRADE: 5.9

T102. Paul Toviessi, Broncos

6-7 270 Age: 24 1st year
The emergence of Reggie Hayward will limit Toviessi's opportunities, but if he retains his speed and change of direction skills, he should develop into a fine situational pass rusher and an effective backup.

GRADE: 5.9

T110. James Hall, Lions

6-2 271 Age: 25 3rd year
Is an adequate No. 4 end who can provide situational pressure when healthy. Must improve ability to hold ground at the point of attack.

GRADE: 5.8

T110. John Miley, Panthers

6-7 290 Age: 27 3rd year
Missed 11 games last season because of injury. Probably the No. 4 end. Is a developmental player

who showed signs of improvement.

GRADE: 5.8

T110. Kendrick Office, Bills

6-5 270 Age: 24 2nd year
A former small-school player who continues to develop at a fast rate in terms of technique but lacks ideal size and speed.

GRADE: 5.8

T110. Shawn Price, free agent

6-4 290 Age: 32 9th year
Started 11 games for Bills last season but is not an every-down player. Can play tackle or end and is a decent run defender. But a bad knee clouds his future.

GRADE: 5.8

T110. Cedric Scott, Giants

6-5 274 Age: 24 2nd year
Adequate No. 4 end who has great size and good speed and could play a bigger role on running downs. Must play with better leverage and discipline.

GRADE: 5.8

T110. Tracy Scroggins, free agent

6-3 273 Age: 33 10th year
Was a full-time starter in Detroit the last three seasons but bad knees have reduced him to nickel duty. Still can rush the passer.

GRADE: 5.8

T110. Michael Sinclair, free agent

6-4 275 Age: 34 11th year
A former starter in Seattle, but his skills, burst and quickness are gone. Is not even a great nickel rusher anymore.

GRADE: 5.8

T110. Joe Tafoya, Bears

6-4 270 Age: 25 2nd year
Is relentless in pursuit and shows excellent recognition skills but lacks the straight-line speed of a full-time nickel rusher.

GRADE: 5.8

T110. Juqua Thomas, Titans

6-2 252 Age: 24 2nd year
A developmental player who is a situational pass rusher and special teams contributor. Isn't likely to make a significant contribution until he shows improved pass-rush moves.

GRADE: 5.8

T110. Ellis Wymys, Buccaneers

6-3 279 Age: 23 2nd year
Lacks the speed of a pass-rushing end. Is not a threat coming off the edge. Good for five to 10 plays per game.

GRADE: 5.8

T120. Bert Berry, Broncos

6-3 250 Age: 27 5th year
Is an undersized nickel pass rusher. Has outside linebacker size and is an up-the-field type who has a quick first step, but the results are marginal.

GRADE: 5.7

T120. Demetric Evans, Cowboys

6-3 286 Age: 23 2nd year
Is a raw pass rusher who has good overall quickness. Will contribute in nickel or dime situations and on special teams.

GRADE: 5.7

T120. Ronald Flemons, Falcons

6-5 265 Age: 22 1st year
Has intriguing speed and potentially could develop into a situational edge rusher in nickel and dime packages but will not develop into an every-down starter.

GRADE: 5.7

T120. Mark Thomas, free agent

6-5 265 Age: 33 10th year
Long-time backup (49ers, Panthers, Bears, Colts) still is a high-effort guy, but injuries and age have taken their toll. His only chance of success is as a moving tackle.

GRADE: 5.7

T124. Otis Leverette, Redskins

6-6 275 Age: 24 1st year
Tall and rangy inside player who doesn't show

consistent instincts and feel. But has a nice first step and some quickness.

GRADE: 5.6

T124. Bobby Setzer, 49ers

6-4 280 Age: 26 2nd year
An edge player to watch. Has had nagging injuries but his all-out effort, movement and good first step give him a chance.

GRADE: 5.6

T126. LaDairis Jackson, Redskins

6-2 268 Age: 23 1st year
Situational pass rusher who lacks ideal height and straight-line speed.

GRADE: 5.5

T126. Radell Lockhart, Patriots

6-2 265 Age: 23 1st year
Is not big; will struggle if a team runs right at him. Does not possess the athleticism or speed to be a situational edge rusher.

GRADE: 5.5

T126. Montae Reagor, Broncos

6-3 285 Age: 25 4th year
Former end who failed when he was moved inside. Plays with marginal consistency and gets pushed around at times. Doesn't make enough plays.

GRADE: 5.5

129. Frank Ferrara, Giants

6-3 270 Age: 26 2nd year
Squatty player who has good bulk but lacks lower-body strength, speed and athleticism.

GRADE: 5.2

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Julius Peppers, Panthers

6-6 283 North Carolina, 1st round
Strengths: Has excellent speed and quickness. Shows great burst off the snap and around the edge. Is hard to throw over. Shows outstanding instincts and great reaction to the snap. Is an intelligent player who has a good feel for the game.

Weaknesses: Struggles to protect his body vs. the run. Tends to disappear from games at times. Could use a bit of a mean streak.

Bottom line: Carolina's scheme tends to create a lot of one-on-one matchups off the edge for the rush end. Don't be surprised if he finishes close to double digits in sacks.

GRADE: 9.9

2. Kalimba Edwards, Lions

6-5 264 South Carolina, 2nd round
Strengths: Has an explosive first step and good body control and balance. Accelerates to the quarterback. Anticipates the snap well and gets off the ball quickly. Is a consistent tackler who changes directions well. Can make tackles in the open field.

Weaknesses: Lacks bulk and strength. Plays too high at times and has trouble against the run.

Bottom line: Is an undersized playmaker who should have an immediate impact on passing downs. Will improve against the run with experience.

GRADE: 9.4

3. Dwight Freeney, Colts

6-1 266 Syracuse, 1st round
Strengths: Has outstanding quickness. Uses a lot of double moves and has great body

control. Uses his hands well as a pass rusher. Has played some linebacker and should be able to drop back into coverage if the Colts want to zone blitz. Shows good snap anticipation. Does a good job in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and somewhat of a liability against the run. Takes himself out of the play at times by going too far upfield. Looks uncomfortable in space and lacks the lateral mobility and cover skills to play linebacker full time.

Bottom line: Might be a liability against the run and will be a situational pass rusher. **GRADE: 9.2**

4. Dennis Johnson, Cardinals

6-5 258 Kentucky, 3rd round

Strengths: Has a massive frame and should be able to add bulk. Is a powerful tackler who wraps up with long arms and drives with his legs. Rarely takes himself out of plays by flying upfield.

Weaknesses: Must add strength and play with better leverage. Lacks great double moves and the ability to disengage blocks quickly.

Bottom line: Must become stronger, especially in the lower body, to be an every-down end but has natural tools. **GRADE: 9.1**

5. Alex Brown, Bears

6-3 260 Florida, 4th round

Strengths: Gets great burst off the ball and shows good speed coming off the edge. Is an excellent athlete who has good one-on-one pass-rush skills. Anticipation and quickness are strengths. Can be a punishing tackler at times.

Weaknesses: Shows poor recognition skills. Effort is inconsistent. Takes himself out of plays by flying upfield. Doesn't chase down enough plays from the backside.

Bottom line: At times he appears to be unblockable, and at times he seems to disappear. Must improve effort before he will contribute much. **GRADE: 8.9**

6. Anthony Weaver, Ravens

6-3 300 Notre Dame, 2nd round

Strengths: Has good strength and explosiveness. Plays with nice leverage and stays low out of his stance. Has good overall quickness. Has a variety of pass-rush moves. Closes well on the quarterback. Has quick hands.

Weaknesses: Lacks great speed. Is not a big hitter. Does not stack well at the point of attack. Struggles in two-gap situations.

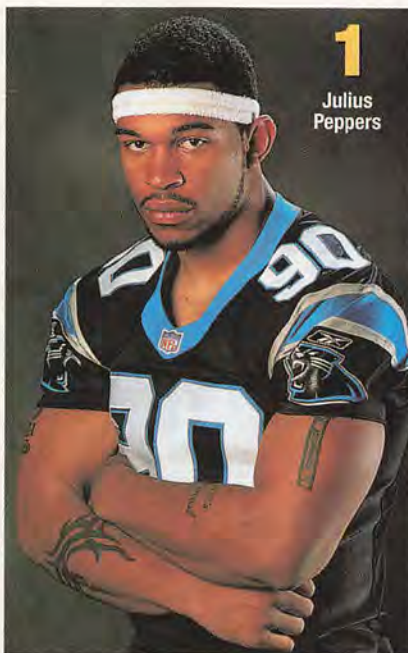
Bottom line: Is more of an inside, penetrating lineman than an edge rusher. Should fit well in the Ravens' new scheme. **GRADE: 8.8**

7. Charles Grant, Saints

6-3 282 Georgia, 1st round

Strengths: Is a relentless pass rusher. Shows good change of direction skills. Is effective when stunting inside and has the speed to turn the corner. Has an above-average first step and is quick. Never quits on a play.

Weaknesses: Lacks multiple pass-rush moves. Is an inconsistent tackler; misses



1
Julius Peppers

tackles when trying to strip the ball. Has average size. Gets overpowered at the point of attack.

Bottom line: Could develop into an elite player. Will fill an immediate need as a situational pass rusher in the nickel package. **GRADE: 8.7**

8. Ryan Denney, Bills

6-7 276 BYU, 2nd round

Always seems to be around the ball and has excellent height and wingspan. Shows good quickness and can change directions quickly. Lacks elite speed as a pass rusher and does not show closing burst to the quarterback. Might move inside on certain passing downs. **GRADE: 7.8**

9. Bryan Thomas, Jets

6-4 266 UAB, 1st round

Shows an explosive first step and is relentless in pursuit. Uses his hands well. Has excellent change of direction skills. Lacks size to hold his ground at the point of attack. Wears down during the game. Has pass-rushing ability to make an immediate impact but must develop recognition skills. **GRADE: 7.4**

10. Kenyon Coleman, Raiders

6-4 284 UCLA, 5th round

Pass-rushing end who has good size and ability. Offers a variety of moves and has an ability to make counter moves, too. Slowed by injuries in college. Is not effective against the run. Lacks lower-body strength and doesn't use leverage. Gets overwhelmed at the point of attack by power blockers. Is an inconsistent talent who has plenty of upside if he stays healthy. **GRADE: 7.1**

11. Gregory Scott, Redskins

6-4 268 Hampton, 7th round

Raw player who has the speed to contribute on special teams and possibly as a situational pass rusher. Is a liability against the run. **GRADE: 6.2**

12. Brett Keisel, Steelers

6-5 269 BYU, 7th round

Has good speed and should develop into a quality pass rusher off the edge. Will be well-liked because

of hustle and strong work ethic.

GRADE: 5.5

13. Carlos Hall, Titans

6-4 259 Arkansas, 7th round

An undersized situational pass rusher. With improved technique, a more consistent effort and added size, he should develop into a fine situational pass rusher. **GRADE: 5.3**

14. Derrius Monroe, Saints

6-4 269 Virginia Tech, 7th round

Lacks size and strength but has tremendous upside because of his speed and athleticism. Might wind up as the fifth end. **GRADE: 5.2**

15. Raheem Brock, Eagles

6-4 257 Temple, 7th round

An aggressive overachiever who is a powerful tackler. Must add bulk and improve his technique but should be the Eagles' No. 4 end. **GRADE: 4.9**

16. Anton Palepoi, Seahawks

6-3 279 UNLV, 2nd round

Has a nice combination of bulk and speed. Has potential but is rough around the edges. A natural pass rusher off the edge but must work on technique. Should supply needed pressure in the nickel package. **GRADE: 4.8**

17. John Stamper, Buccaneers

6-4 265 South Carolina, 6th round

Has good strength and speed. Lacks bulk but is a developmental project. **GRADE: 4.7**

118. Jarvis Green, Patriots

6-3 272 LSU, 4th round

Has good bulk and is tough to move. Is not flashy but appears to be someone who can settle into New England's line rotation and contribute immediately. **GRADE: 4.0**

118. Josh Mallard, Colts

6-1 261 Georgia, 7th round

Lack of size hurts his chances, but he has the quickness to be effective in this speed-dependent scheme. **GRADE: 4.0**

120. Joey Evans, Bengals

6-4 264 North Carolina, 7th round

A developmental player who will not be dominant in any area. Will not make an impact on defense this season. **GRADE: 3.0**

120. Sean Guthrie, Giants

6-4 248 Boston College, undrafted free agent

Lacks ideal size and athletic ability but has a quick first step and is relentless in pursuit. **GRADE: 3.0**

120. Antwan Lake, Lions

6-4 285 West Virginia, undrafted free agent

Reserve who has great athleticism. Underachieved in college. Must improve consistency. **GRADE: 3.0**

120. Ivory McCoy, Eagles

6-3 240 Michigan, undrafted free agent

Talented but raw athlete who is making the transition from linebacker to end. A good practice-squad candidate. **GRADE: 3.0**

120. Ahmad Miller, Texans

6-3 306 UNLV, 7th round

Is a solid run stuffer who has good upper-body strength. He chases down the line very well for a player his size. **GRADE: 3.0**

120. Ryan Nielsen, Eagles

6-5 280 USC, undrafted free agent

Undersized run-stuffer who must continue to add bulk and strength to have a chance to contribute as the No. 5 tackle. **GRADE: 3.0**

DEFENSIVE TACKLES

VETERANS

1. La'Roi Glover, Cowboys

6-2 285

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Plays with excellent leverage and power and has an explosive first step. Does good job of getting the angle and blowing guards off balance. Can play in a one- or two-gap scheme. Can take over a game and control the line of scrimmage. Chases well on the backside. Changes direction well and is a solid open-field tackler. Fights off blocks well and always seems to be around the ball. Is excellent at running line stunts and twists.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal bulk and does not always play with a physical style.

Bottom line: Is one of the NFL's most disruptive players. With the Cowboys, he'll line up over guards and face fewer double teams, a situation tailor-made for him to exploit.

GRADE: 9.3

2. Warren Sapp, Buccaneers

6-2 303

Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Initial quickness and burst with the snap of the ball are tremendous. Can get through the line and find the ball. Knows how to use leverage. Can change directions and chase the ball. Is a powerful tackler who has a flair for making big plays.

Weaknesses: Lacks some power as a pass rusher. Struggles to disengage and when not on the move. Must maintain separation from offensive linemen.

Bottom line: Is often unblockable when on the move. The team's defensive scheme is based upon his ability to get upfield and disrupt an offense's plans in the backfield. Coming off a subpar season, a healthier Sapp again can be the league's premier interior, one-gap defensive lineman.

GRADE: 9.2

3. Anthony McFarland, Buccaneers

6-0 300

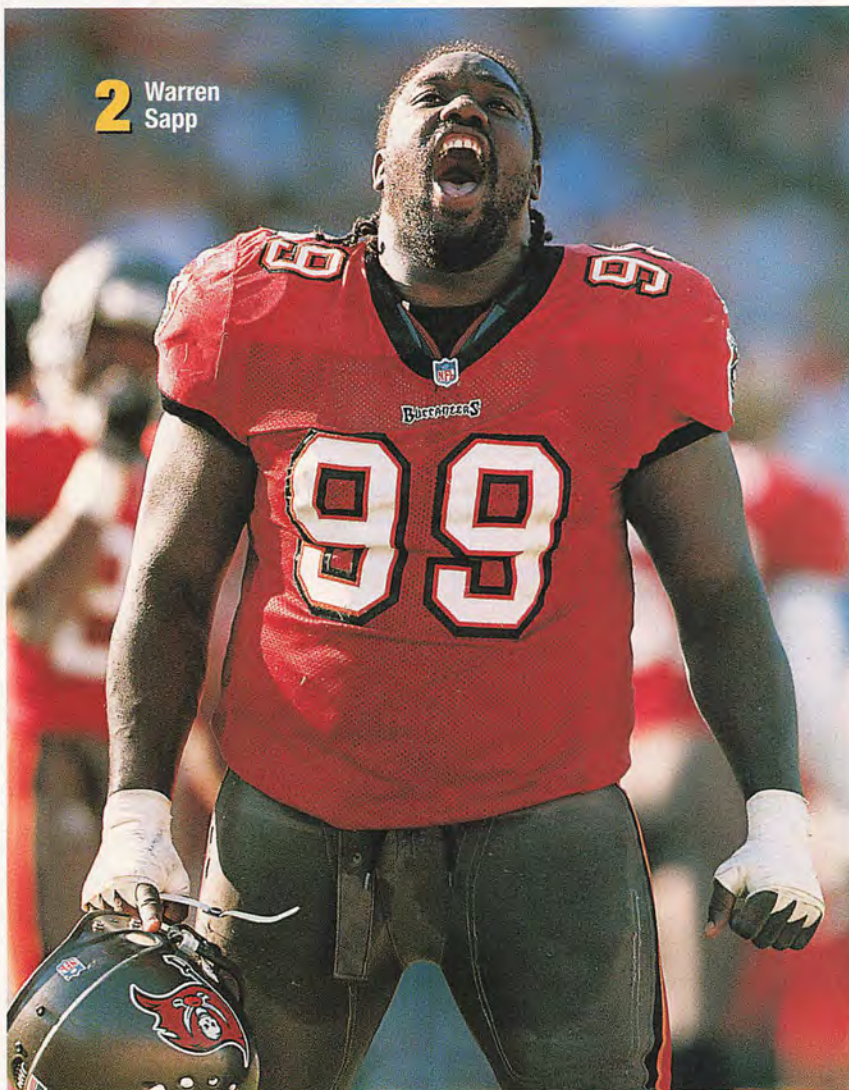
Age: 24 4th year

Strengths: Has impressive mobility for size. Has excellent instincts and run/pass diagnostic skills. Chases down the ball in the running game. Has a closing burst to the quarterback or a ballcarrier. Is disruptive when he gets in the backfield. Is at his best when allowed to shoot the gap between blockers.

Weaknesses: Lacks the bulk and strength to play nose tackle. Has trouble holding his ground against double teams. Durability is a concern because of arm and knee injuries in recent years.

Bottom line: Is one of the more gifted young

2 Warren Sapp



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

JOB REQUIREMENTS

	Ht.	Wt.	40
NFL optimum	6-4	310	4.90
NFL minimum	6-1	275	5.20

Defensive tackles usually fall into one of two groups: the two-gap run stuffers and the one-gap penetrators. A run-stuffing tackle does not make a lot of plays in the backfield, but he takes up a lot of space and keeps blockers off the linebackers. Penetrating tackles are more likely to make a big play or get to the quarterback in the passing game but tend to be undersized and struggle at times to hold up against the run.

tackles in the league. Is playing out of his natural element at nose tackle, taking up space and absorbing blockers to keep Warren Sapp free.

GRADE: 8.7

4. Corey Simon, Eagles

6-2 293

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Shows good initial quickness, an explosive first step and the ability to play with leverage. Has very good lateral quickness and good overall athletic ability. Shows good power at the point of attack, has excellent lower-body strength and does a good job of driving his legs. Can shed blocks, locate the ball and track down ballcarriers. Is active



6
Gerard
Warren

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN



33
Gilbert
Brown

BOB LEVERONE / TSN



25
Casey
Hampton

ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

and disruptive and shows the ability to consistently make plays in the backfield.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal bulk and has suffered several minor injuries. Struggles to anchor against double teams at times.

Bottom line: Young, undersized playmaker who wins most battles with an explosive first step but needs to play next to a tackle who has the size to attract double teams. Struggled when Hollis Thomas was sidelined last season.

GRADE: 8.4

5. Dan Wilkinson, Redskins

6-4 325

Age: 29 9th year

Strengths: Has great power and burst.

Showed marked improvement over the last two seasons. Has the lower body strength and bulk to clog up the middle, keep blockers off the linebackers and anchor against the double team. Has the explosive first step to penetrate and disrupt plays in the backfield.

Works to collapse the pocket in the passing game. Has excellent agility.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent and does not always play with good leverage. Does not have a variety of pass-rush moves and lacks ideal closing speed.

Bottom line: Has the initial quickness and size to excel in new defensive coordinator Marvin Lewis' schemes. Must be more consistent.

GRADE: 8.1

6. Gerard Warren, Browns

6-4 322

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is massive, active and powerful, with loads of upside. Has a quick first step, plays with good leverage and has outstanding lateral movement for someone his size. Can be extremely disruptive as a one-gap penetrator. Has good change of direction skills and closing quickness as a pass rusher. Has a lot of big-play flair.

Weaknesses: Is inexperienced; has a lot to learn. Will sometimes run himself out of plays. Recognition skills need work. Does not always find the ball as quickly as he should. Has had some off-the-field problems.

Bottom line: Is the type of disruptive defensive force a young franchise such as the Browns can build around.

GRADE: 8.0

T7. Cornelius Griffin, Giants

6-3 300

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Good size and adequate athletic ability. Wins most battles with initial quickness, leverage and pop at the point of attack. Plays with excellent balance and has good change-of-direction ability. Can locate the ball and shed the block.

Weaknesses: Struggles against double teams, tends to give up rather than fight through.

Bottom line: Penetrator who has the explosive first step to be disruptive but needs tackle Keith Hamilton to stay healthy and attract double teams.

GRADE: 7.9

T7. Ted Washington, Bears

6-5 355

Age: 34 12th year

Strengths: A two-gap tackle with the size, bulk and strength to take up two blockers in the run game. Plays with good leverage and has a good feel for assignments. Has excellent run/pass diagnose skills. Is intelligent.

Weaknesses: Is not a pass-rushing threat. Lacks the quickness and burst to consistently penetrate the line of scrimmage. Wears down late in games and must keep weight down. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Has the bulk and power to excel as an early-down run stuffer.

GRADE: 7.9

T7. Bryant Young, 49ers

6-3 291

Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has tremendous football

intelligence and recognition skills. Displays an explosive first step, plays with a good motor and does a good job of keeping his feet and hands moving. Is relentless in pursuit, plays with leverage and always seems to be around the ball. Shows explosive upper-body strength and the ability to stack and shed at the point of attack against running games.

Weaknesses: Does not have great moves as a pass rusher and doesn't shed blocks in the passing game as well as he does in the running game.

Bottom line: Has lost a step as a pass rusher but still is active and extremely disruptive against the run.

GRADE: 7.9

T10. Norman Hand, Saints

6-3 310

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has great strength and power. Can dominate at the point of attack. Has a quick first step. Uses hands well to keep separation.

Weaknesses: Must improve conditioning. Often plays too high. Tends not to work to make plays or disrupt plays in the backfield. Missed last three games last season because of an arch injury.

Bottom line: Can be one of the more dominating tackles in the NFL against the run. If he stays in shape, could be one of the most important players on the defense.

GRADE: 7.8

T10. John Randle, Seahawks

6-1 287

Age: 34 13th year

Strengths: Is very explosive; still can penetrate and dominate one-on-one matchups. Has great natural quickness. A tireless worker who still can go a full four quarters. Does a great job anticipating the snap.

Weaknesses: Has more trouble generating initial burst on grass than he does on turf. Does not do as good or consistent job of

ON THE RISE: Richard Seymour, Patriots

He has begun to emerge as a dominant interior player. After a year's experience in the Pats' complicated schemes, Seymour should be more productive.

ON THE DECLINE: Chester McGlockton, Chiefs

He once was dominant despite never giving top effort. Now that he's aging, he's clearly slipping. He still can take up blockers and space, but he is not a playmaker.

SLEEPER: Lional Dalton, Broncos

Although he never has been a full-time starter, he'll get the opportunity this season. He has the run-stuffing ability to excel in the Broncos' scheme.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Marcus Stroud, Jaguars

The 2001 first-rounder didn't make much impact after landing in Tom Coughlin's doghouse early. He'll get another chance this season but must stay out of trouble.

BEST RUN DEFENDER: Shaun Rogers, Lions

In 2001, Rogers had more than tackles (44) than any other rookie. Expect him to continue to improve this season.

BEST PASS RUSHER: John Randle, Seahawks

He had some uncharacteristic durability problems in 2001, but no one was better rushing the passer, and his 11 sacks proved he still can get to the quarterback.

BEST ONE-GAP PLAYER: Warren Sapp, Buccaneers

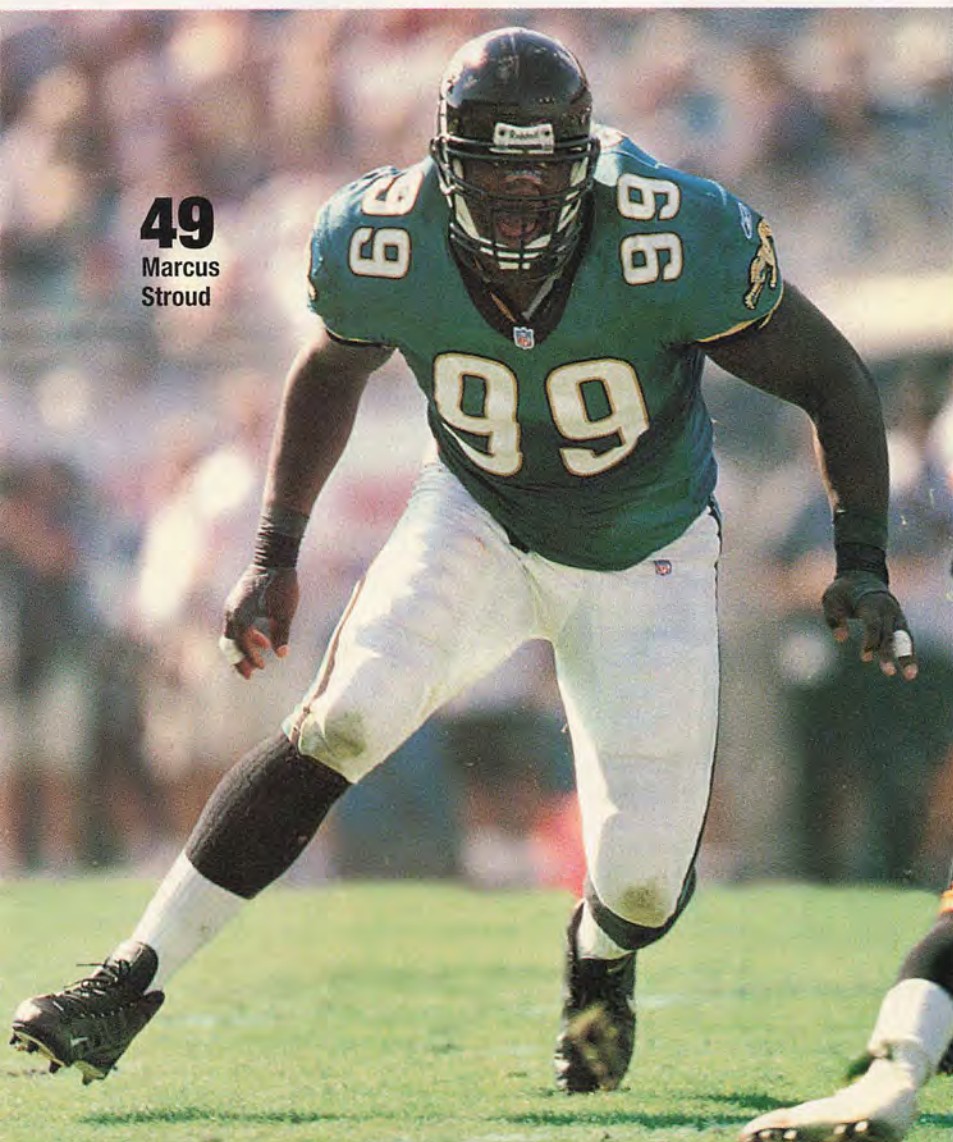
He was slowed in 2001 by a shoulder injury but should be healthy for the opener. There's no one better at getting upfield and disrupting the run and pass games.

BEST TWO-GAP PLAYER: Ted Washington, Bears

This massive tackle does a good job of keeping blockers off the linebackers. He also can make plays on the run. Brian Urlacher should benefit from his presence.

49

Marcus Stroud



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

disengaging from blocks as he once did. Is undersized. Has just average strength and a poor lower-body base.

Bottom line: Looked revitalized in Seattle last season and should have one, maybe two, solid seasons left. Must stay healthy for the entire year because the Seahawks' defense loses a lot when he's not on the field.

GRADE: 7.8

T10. Keith Traylor, Bears

6-2 330

Age: 33 11th year

Strengths: Is quick and productive on the run. Has great size and good strength in one-on-one matchups. Has a strong upper body and does a nice job keeping separation.

Weaknesses: Lacks the burst and stamina to stay in on passing downs. Tends to wear down late in games; clearly is not in good enough shape to handle a full-time job.

Bottom line: Is quicker and more explosive than counterpart Ted Washington and provides more of a pass rush. Is at his best taking up space in the running game and protecting linebackers in the

Bears' two-gap scheme.

GRADE: 7.8

T13. Grady Jackson, Saints

6-2 330

Age: 29 5th year

Strengths: Does a good job getting off blocks. Shows excellent effort to fight through blocks and make plays vs. the run. Does an excellent job vs. double teams.

Weaknesses: Does not have a great first step. Does not make a lot of big plays. Must improve conditioning.

Bottom line: With Jackson and Norman Hand, the Saints have one of the bigger tackle tandems in the league.

GRADE: 7.6

T13. Dana Stubblefield, 49ers

6-2 290

Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Has impressive lower-body strength and plays with good leverage. Also has a powerful upper body and will work to keep separation. Does a good job of reading blocks and getting into a position to make plays. Still shows good initial quickness and an explosive first step.

Weaknesses: Has trouble at times

disengaging from blocks. Has become a one-dimensional bull rusher in the passing game. Is aging and not the upfield presence he once was.

Bottom line: Experience starter who is significantly better at defending the run than applying pressure on the quarterback. Would benefit from more rest during games.

GRADE: 7.6

T13. Gary Walker, Texans

6-2 305

Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Excellent inside penetrator who has good overall quickness. Comes off the ball hard and has great anticipation skills. Works hard to get to the ball and makes a lot of plays behind the line of scrimmage. Is a better space player than size indicates.

Weaknesses: Has questionable intensity and consistency. Tends to rely a bit too much on quickness. Could add some strength.

Bottom line: Versatile enough to play nose tackle or end; should be able to make some big plays.

GRADE: 7.6

T16. Luther Elliss, Lions

6-5 305

Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Is quick and powerful. Can shoot gaps. Plays with leverage and can uproot guards in the running game. Has good recognition skills. Has the lower-body strength to take on double teams. Has good initial burst and can get to the quarterback.

Weaknesses: Missed two games and struggled throughout last season because of a chronic elbow injury. Wears down late in games.

Bottom line: Inconsistent starter who must be rested 10 to 15 plays a game. Has the first step, athleticism and strength to be a disruptive interior player.

GRADE: 7.5

T16. Cletidus Hunt, Packers

6-4 300

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Shows good initial burst and plays with good leverage. Is capable of shooting gaps, is disruptive and has good overall athletic ability. Has long arms and does a good job of creating separation. Is powerful at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Does not have good recognition skills and struggles to locate ball carriers at times. Doesn't have great closing speed to quarterbacks. Has had problems keeping weight down.

Bottom line: An active, one-gap, penetrating tackle who has the potential to have a big year but must be more consistent and keep his weight down.

GRADE: 7.5

T16. Richard Seymour, Patriots

6-6 305

Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Can be a dominant inside player. Has outstanding size and the ability to collapse the pocket. Shows the ability to locate the football and make a big play. Can run very well for an inside player. Does an excellent job of closing on the quarterback.

Weaknesses: Tends to wear down late in games. Comes too straight out of his stance too often. Needs to play with better leverage.

Bottom line: Should become one of the most dominant, versatile inside players in the league. Could line up at end occasionally to take advantage of athleticism and range.

GRADE: 7.5

T16. Pat Williams, Bills

6-3 315

Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has good size, power and quickness. Lower-body strength is excellent. Shows the ability to hold ground at the point of attack and can be disruptive in the running game.

Weaknesses: Doesn't always give a consistent effort and appears to lunge into blockers at times. Does not always fight to split the double team.

Bottom line: Has a chance to be a Pro Bowl player but is extremely inconsistent, tends to wear down too quickly and gets easily frustrated when double-teamed.

GRADE: 7.5

T20. Jason Fisk, Chargers

6-3 295

Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Plays with good leverage and can push a pile. Is a solid short-area run-stuffer. Makes few mistakes. Has a quick first step, chases well and plays nonstop.

Weaknesses: Is not overpowering or physical. Is not a read-and-react player. Doesn't overwhelm with athletic skill.

Bottom line: A solid player who will fill the void left on the Chargers' defense by the departure of John Parrella.

GRADE: 7.4

T20. Sean Gilbert, Panthers

6-5 318

Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Has great size and good strength at the point of attack. Has a strong upper body and is experienced at keeping separation. Shows ability to take up blockers inside to open up lanes.

Weaknesses: Wears down quickly if forced to be on the move. Lacks penetrating quickness as pass rusher. Age and durability are concern.

Bottom line: Can be an impact player if he stays healthy and gets enough time off during a game (15 to 20 plays). Will do a great job keeping blockers off young linebacking corps.

GRADE: 7.4

T20. Keith Hamilton, Giants

6-6 295

Age: 31 11th year

Strengths: Instinctive. Has good recognition skills. Has adequate initial quickness and excellent strength at the point of attack. Can take on the double teams. Works to shed blocks. Has decent inside pass-rush moves and a good burst off the ball.

Weaknesses: Inconsistent. Has trouble maintaining leverage and loses his base at times. Durability is questionable.

Bottom line: Can be one of the better run-stuffers in the league when healthy and he plays with good technique.

GRADE: 7.4

T20. Ellis Johnson, Colts

6-2 288

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Explodes off the ball and plays with a tremendous motor. Takes great angles

to the ball. Displays good intelligence and instincts. Gets up the field quickly. Is difficult for an offensive lineman to get his hands on.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal bulk and size.

Doesn't always disengage blocks quickly.

Lacks the bulk of a dominant run stuffer and the overall speed of an effective pass rusher.

Bottom line: Has great playmaking skills and could repeat 151/2-sack season of 1998.

GRADE: 7.4

T20. Hollis Thomas, Eagles

6-0 306

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has great bulk and plays with good leverage. Shows the strength and base to hold up at the point of attack. Is quick and shows the ability to shoot gaps and make plays in the backfield against the run.

Weaknesses: Gets too heavy at times, leading to sluggish play. Doesn't always shed blocks quickly and can get caught up at the line of scrimmage. Is coming off a foot injury and durability is a concern. Lacks the closing speed to be a factor as a pass rusher.

Bottom line: Versatile run stuffer who takes up space, creates penetration and causes havoc inside. But he needs to stay healthy and draw attention away from Corey Simon.

GRADE: 7.4

T25. Larry Chester, Dolphins

6-2 310

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and is terrific against the run. Has a great first step and explodes out of stance. Is relentless in pursuit and always fights to get to the ballcarrier. Shows a good bull rush and occasionally collapses the pocket.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal athletic ability and quickness. Doesn't catch anyone from behind. Lacks ideal recognition skills and has a hard time locating the ball at times.

Bottom line: Has the size, strength and aggressive style of play to be an effective in Miami's two-gap scheme, but his ability to rebound from a leg injury last season is a concern.

GRADE: 7.3

T25. Chad Eaton, Seahawks

6-5 306

Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Is very good at using his size and upper-body strength to hold his ground at the point of attack. Has a strong base. Does a great job of keeping blockers off his linebackers. Shows adequate initial quickness and has strong hands. Shows good recognition skills.

Weaknesses: Is no very athletic and can't penetrate or chase. Lacks the closing speed to create pressure.

Bottom line: Has been durable and does a good job tying up blockers and stuffing the run. Knows his role in Seattle's system and his own limitations.

GRADE: 7.3

T25. Daryl Gardener, free agent

6-6 310

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Is a good athlete for someone so big. Can anchor against and split double teams. Has quick, strong hands. Shows good recognition skills and intelligence. Has

excellent power and good initial burst. Has the lateral quickness to get to the edge and make plays.

Weaknesses: Does not have much closing burst to the quarterback. Must improve pass-rush moves. Does not always take good angles to the ballcarrier. Can't chase down many plays. Durability is a concern because of back problems last season.

Bottom line: Has the quickness, size and athletic ability to excel but was let go by the Dolphins after missing 90 percent of offseason workouts.

GRADE: 7.3

T25. Travis Hall, Falcons

6-5 295

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Is a relentless pass rusher with good quickness. Has adequate speed to close on the quarterback. Is a hard worker with great toughness. Shows ability to shed blocks.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size or overall strength. Unable to hold his ground in a two-gap scheme consistently. Is not getting any younger, and minor injuries limit his effectiveness.

Bottom line: Made a consistent impact as an inside pass rusher but is not fast enough to play the edge. The 3-4 end position is a good fit for him.

GRADE: 7.3

T25. Casey Hampton, Steelers

6-1 321

Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Is a fireplug who has unbelievable strength and power at point of attack. Has excellent lower-body explosion; can shoot gaps with his low base or overpower centers at line of scrimmage. Is a knee bender who has good hands and can eat up a lot of space.

Weaknesses: Is undersized; doesn't bull rush often. Lacks overall range and is ineffective in space. Is not overly adept with change of direction. Makes few plays on the perimeter.

Bottom line: Had amazing rookie season in 2001 plugging up the middle and creating headaches for opposing centers. Is a key part of the defense.

GRADE: 7.3

T25. Chris Hovan, Vikings

6-2 294

Age: 24 4th year

Strengths: Plays with elite intensity and a nonstop motor. Shows an explosive first step, gets good initial pop at the point of attack and does a good job of using hands to disengage blocks quickly. Has good overall quickness. Displays excellent athletic ability and can make plays on the move.

Weaknesses: Needs to play with better discipline and will fly too far upfield at times. Doesn't always play with great leverage and will struggle when a bigger offensive lineman gets under his pads.

Bottom line: With a better supporting cast, could develop into a Pro Bowl player but he must play with more discipline.

GRADE: 7.3

T25. Seth Payne, Texans

6-4 303

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and good overall instincts. Possesses adequate athletic ability and is very active. Has good strength and



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

7

Bryant Young

rarely gets overpowered at the point of attack. Hard worker who plays with an excellent motor and really works to finish plays. Has a good feel for blocking angles and does a nice job as an inside tackler. Takes pride in being fundamentally sound and is extremely versatile.

Weaknesses: Does not have a lot of moves as a pass rusher and lacks sideline-to-sideline range.

Bottom line: Starter who is quietly developing into one of the best run stuffers in the NFL. Will provide production and depth at multiple positions for a young Houston defense.

GRADE: 7.3

T25. Jeff Zgonina, Rams

6-2 305 Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to play in a one-gap or two-gap scheme. Is extremely strong at the point of attack. Is at his best when on the move. Does a good job of getting into gaps and offensive linemen's bodies. **Weaknesses:** Is beginning to age and lacks bulk. Has to work every down to get into proper position. Lacks both the size to collapse the pocket and closing speed to the quarterback.

Bottom line: An aging run-stuffer who is coming off the best season of his career. Has great strength and remains a starter with the job of tying up interior blockers.

GRADE: 7.3

T33. Gilbert Brown, Packers

6-2 339 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Does a great job holding his ground against double teams and has good initial quickness when fresh. Plays with leverage. Shows good power and ability to collapse the offensive line into the backfield.

Takes good angles to the ball.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal speed and athletic ability. Has had problems keeping weight down. Will wear down over the course of a game and has a history of injuries.

Bottom line: Is a massive, two-gap, run stuffer who takes up space and blockers. Strictly is a first- and second-down player who needs to be rested and has serious durability concerns.

GRADE: 7.2

T33. Lionel Dalton, Broncos

6-1 309 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has good bulk; does an outstanding job of taking up space and blockers. Is very difficult to trap. Can chase down plays. Is always fighting to get to the ball.

Weaknesses: Must be replaced on passing downs. Lacks ideal change of direction skills. Sometimes has problems locating the ball quickly. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Entering his first year as a full-time starter; should immediately improve the Broncos' already strong run defense.

GRADE: 7.2

T33. Jason Ferguson, Jets

6-3 305 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has the ability to anchor against the run at the point of attack. Has good size and great strength. Is great at locating the ballcarrier and making the play. Opponents must double-team him.

Weaknesses: Is coming off shoulder surgery and must improve his conditioning. Wears down over the course of the game. Must play with better balance. Spends too much time on the ground.

Bottom line: Has the size and power to be a productive starter. Needs to stay healthy because there is little depth behind.

GRADE: 7.2

T33. Damione Lewis, Rams

6-2 301 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is explosive. Beats most offensive linemen with his first step and gets off the ball quickly. Runs well, changes directions quickly and shows impressive swim and club moves as a pass rusher. Comes out of his stance low and takes good angles when shooting gaps.

Weaknesses: Is coming off foot surgery. Does not have great recognition skills and needs to play with a better base.

Bottom line: Has the rare quickness to develop into a disruptive upfield tackle. Eventually should replace Brian Young as the starter despite durability concerns.

GRADE: 7.2

T33. John Thornton, Titans

6-2 300 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is a big, strong athletic player. Shows great power at the point of attack.

Will make some plays from the backside. Is a versatile player who can play tackle and end.

Weaknesses: Is overaggressive at times and needs to play with better discipline. Misses too many tackles trying to make the big play. Lacks ideal bulk and size and will struggle to hold ground in the running game.

Bottom line: Missed the majority of the 2001 season because of a shoulder injury but is an effective starter who was missed when he was out of the lineup.

GRADE: 7.2

T33. Steve Warren, Packers

6-1 298 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good short-area quickness, an explosive first step and the ability to penetrate. Can play in a one-gap or two-gap scheme. Has a wide frame and gets under offensive linemen's pads. Displays good recognition skills and always seems to be around the ball.

Weaknesses: Lack of speed is a concern. Is inconsistent and doesn't always play with good leverage.

Bottom line: Is a versatile reserve who provides quality depth because of size and initial quickness. Has some durability concerns and needs experience to improve technique.

GRADE: 7.2

T33. Jamal Williams, Chargers

6-3 305 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has great size and strength, and is tough to move. Plays with leverage and has good short-area quickness. Penetrates effectively at times and takes good angles to the quarterback. Can collapse pocket and overpower offensive linemen at point of attack.

Weaknesses: Isn't a good athlete. Lacks range. Is not overly efficient as a pass rusher and lacks pass-rush moves. Has almost no change-of-direction skills. Is coming off a knee injury that sidelined him for 13 games last season.

Bottom line: If healthy, he'll be a strong inside presence who will force double teams in the running game and free up teammates to make plays.

GRADE: 7.2

T33. Josh Williams, Colts

6-3 284 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Gets good pressure in the middle. Is excellent in pursuit. Displays good intelligence and instincts. Has the lower-body strength to anchor against the run. Plays with excellent leverage. Has a great work ethic.

Weaknesses: Smallish size prevents him from anchoring against double teams. Does not have a variety of pass-rush moves. Must learn how to use speed on the outside to set up moves.

Bottom line: Is not much of a playmaker but has the speed and quickness to develop in the Colts' scheme.

GRADE: 7.2

T33. Tony Williams, Bengals

6-1 292 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has good athletic ability, good feet and is quick off the ball. Has a good combination of power and quickness. Plays with good leverage. Will get up the field and make plays behind the line of scrimmage. Does an excellent job of chasing down plays. Flashes the ability to rush the passer.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal football intelligence and will be caught out of position at times. Is overaggressive and needs to play with better

discipline. Lacks ideal size and will struggle against bigger offensive linemen.

Bottom line: A starter and a good fit for the Bengals' scheme. Lacks great size but is very active and disruptive in the running and passing games. **GRADE: 7.2**

T42. Ed Jasper, Falcons

6-2 293

Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has solid athletic ability and good natural skills. Shows good overall quickness and an effective first step off the snap. Does a nice job in run defense. Makes tackles and plays in space.

Weaknesses: Is not a big, physical guy. Has had a variety of injuries. Struggles when a big offensive lineman neutralizes him after the snap. Needs to improve against double teams.

Bottom line: Could have increased production in his role as the nose tackle in the Falcons' new 3-4 defense. **GRADE: 7.1**

T42. Kris Jenkins, Panthers

6-4 315

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good overall size and quickness. Is disruptive in the running game and will show an occasional burst to the passer. Can chase down some plays in the backfield. **Weaknesses:** Will need to improve stamina. Needs to improve recognition skills. Has trouble locating the ball at times. Lacks great awareness and will miss some assignments.

Bottom line: Has the tools and overall talent to develop into an impact tackle. Likely will be part of a four-man rotation and will get 20 to 25 plays per game. **GRADE: 7.1**

T42. Shaun Rogers, Lions

6-4 331

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Can split double teams and collapse the pocket. Has good lower-body strength. Has the ability to penetrate and make plays in the backfield.

Weaknesses: Wore down at the end of last season and is inconsistent. Must keep his weight down. Lacks the closing speed to be a dominant interior pass rusher.

Bottom line: Starter who has the power and first step to develop into an upper-echelon nose tackle. Should improve with experience but must get in better shape. **GRADE: 7.1**

T42. Orpheus Roye, Browns

6-4 313

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has good change of direction skills, quickness and speed for his size. Has adequate initial burst. Can make plays in pursuit and has a good closing burst. Has a lot of starting experience.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal strength and base to defend the run. Has trouble in two-gap schemes. Does not always play with great leverage. Isn't as fast or as big a pass-rush threat as he was even two years ago. Injuries and age are catching up.

Bottom line: Has proved he can be a solid starter, but a knee injury set him back last season. More suited for backup duty. **GRADE: 7.1**



4
Corey Simon

T42. Brian Young, Rams

6-2 290

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Plays with a tremendous motor and good quickness. Good initial power allows him to knock an offensive lineman back. Does a nice job of penetrating gaps. Has a quick first step.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal bulk and does not have the frame to add more muscle. Does not have the lower-body strength to anchor against the run and isn't able to take up space. Wears down easily.

Bottom line: Active one-gap tackle who does a good job of getting upfield but is best suited for a reserve role because of his size. Eventually will back up Damione Lewis. **GRADE: 7.1**

T47. Shane Dronett, Falcons

6-6 300

Age: 31 11th year

Strengths: Has a quick initial step. Shows ability to use rip and club moves as an interior rusher. Can close on the passer. Plays with leverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks great natural strength against the run. Struggles against the power running game. Tends to get driven off the ball. Durability always is a concern.

Bottom line: A versatile player who can be a backup at tackle and nose tackle. Probably is best suited to be a situational player who plays 20 to 25 snaps per game. **GRADE: 7.0**

T47. Oliver Gibson, Bengals

6-2 315

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has massive size and shows good mobility. Takes excellent angles to the ball and shows good overall football intelligence. Shows good power when playing with leverage. Plays with a nonstop motor.

Weaknesses: Tends to wear down over the course of the game. May need to lose some

weight in favor of endurance. Will lose temper at times and needs to play with better discipline.

Bottom line: Big one-gap tackle who has the size to stuff the run and the quickness to rush the passer. Needs to prove durable enough to maintain intensity throughout the game. **GRADE: 7.0**

T49. Kendrick Clancy, Steelers

6-1 289

Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Excellent one-gap penetrator who has good quickness off ball. Is very good in stunts and blitzes, and pursuit to ball. Can make plays in space and is an effective tackler. Can get through trash and will track down some backside plays.

Weaknesses: Is undersized for a nose tackle and not an effective space eater. Unable to play physical style vs. big centers and can be engulfed. Is not a read-and-react type player.

Bottom line: Is a nice change-of-pace nose tackle. Can beat offensive lineman to spots and make plays while in space or avoiding blockers. Will be an effective backup who can disrupt offensive flow with different skills. **GRADE: 6.9**

T49. Russell Davis, Cardinals

6-4 306

Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has the quickness and initial burst to get good inside penetration. Has shown some good moves as a pass rusher and has adequate upper-body strength.

Weaknesses: Has trouble holding up at the point of attack and lacks lower-body strength. Gets engulfed by bigger guards and wears down late in games.

Bottom line: Is best suited to be a No. 3 tackle. **GRADE: 6.9**

T49. Eric Downing, Chiefs

6-3 314

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has nice first-step quickness, good overall balance and good athletic ability. Range is adequate, and he can be effective in stunts.

Weaknesses: Is not an explosive power player and he lacks great instincts. Needs to improve array of pass-rush moves and use hands a little better.

Bottom line: Will have to battle for starting position but will be a part of the tackle rotation. Has potential to become a full-time starter. **GRADE: 6.9**

T49. Leif Larsen, Bills

6-4 300

Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Has adequate size and great strength. Can be a tough interior player. Does a good job taking up space and blockers. Has good recognition skills and uses upper-body strength to disengage blocks.

Weaknesses: Comes out of stance high and loses a lot of strength when he doesn't play with leverage. Lacks explosiveness as a pass rusher.

Bottom line: First- and second-down run stuffer who is relentless but gives way to a quicker tackle on passing downs. **GRADE: 6.9**



MARK BOLTON FOR TSN

T49. Chester McGlockton, Broncos 6-4 334 Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Will take up space and blockers in the running game. Has the strength to anchor against the double team. Will make some plays behind the line. Has very good upper-body strength.

Weaknesses: Needs to be more consistent. Is not a reliable tackler. Does not have the closing speed or the relentlessness of the league's most effective pass rushers.

Bottom line: His responsibility in the Broncos' scheme is to take up space and blockers; his days of being a playmaker are over. **GRADE: 6.9**

T49. Mark Smith, Browns 6-4 294 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Is a strong, powerful player when rested. Can be a disruptive force at the line of scrimmage. When playing with leverage, does a nice job of collapsing the pocket as a pass rusher. Can drive offensive linemen back off their feet in the running game.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal bulk for a power tackle. Will wear down as a starter. Will sometimes play too high, allowing offensive linemen to get into his body. Will lose many physical battles when tired. Is a straight-line player who has no big-play flair. Has average tools.

Bottom line: Clearly is the weakest link on the Browns' defensive line. If he doesn't play well, Gerard Warren is certain to be double-teamed. **GRADE: 6.9**

T49. Marcus Stroud, Jaguars 6-6 321 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Big, physical player who can dominate on inside running plays. Can collapse the pocket and overpower his opponent. Has

good overall athletic ability and decent feet. Shows adequate change of direction skills.

Weaknesses: Takes plays off, has lapses in concentration and does not always play with leverage. Does not have many pass-rush moves.

Bottom line: Has tremendous potential but is no longer in a developmental situation. Must step up and become a force. **GRADE: 6.9**

T49. Brandon Whiting, Eagles 6-3 285 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Plays with excellent leverage and shows good initial quickness. Displays good reaction skills and the ability to take on and shed blocks. Is relentless in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Does not have the closing speed to create a rush off the edge. Is inconsistent and has had some problems staying healthy.

Bottom line: Fringe starter who is versatile enough to play tackle and end. Shows the ability to stuff the run but lacks the explosiveness and overall athletic ability to be a factor as a pass rusher. **GRADE: 6.9**

T57. Shane Burton, Panthers 6-6 305 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has good power and bulk to clog the gap. Also has good timing and instincts in the passing game. Ability to get in position and bat down passes.

Weaknesses: Lacks initial quickness. Does not have closing speed to the quarterback. Wear, tear and stamina are becoming a concern.

Bottom line: Will be part of a three-man rotation, fits the scheme well and is at best when he plays 25 to 30 plays per game. **GRADE: 6.8**

T57. Leonardo Carson, Chargers 6-2 285 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is a hard-working, one-gap penetrator who has outstanding initial quickness and explosiveness off the ball. Is effective on move and in blitz situations. Takes good angles to the ball. Has a variety of pass-rush moves and good short-area movement. Is a solid inside tackler and a strong chase player who battles on every play.

Weaknesses: Is not big or physical. Is not a force against run and will not collapse pocket on passing plays. Is susceptible to being engulfed by offensive linemen if he fails to maintain separation.

Bottom line: Is an effective rotation tackle who can produce in passing situations. **GRADE: 6.8**

T57. Kelly Gregg, Ravens 6-0 285 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is a high-effort player. Battles at the point of attack. Plays with leverage. Works to finish plays. Fights to get penetration on pass rush.

Weaknesses: Is vastly undersized. Struggles to split double teams. Does not have good range. Gets overpowered by larger offensive linemen. Lacks overall athleticism.

Bottom line: Is an overachiever. Is a good

backup in a line rotation but would not do well anchoring inside. **GRADE: 6.8**

T57. Steve Martin, Patriots 6-4 312 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Does an excellent job of stacking inside. Has very good size. Shows ability to collapse the pocket and disrupt the inside play. Will work to fight through double teams and combination blocks.

Weaknesses: Is not quick off the ball. Does not contribute as an inside penetrator on pass-rush plays. Lacks great rush speed. **Bottom line:** Doesn't have the talent to play every down but should be able to carve out a role as a situational run stuffer in coach Bill Belichick's defense. **GRADE: 6.8**

T57. Brandon Noble, Cowboys 6-2 304 Age: 28 3rd year

Strengths: Is a tough, relentless player who has bulked up to adequate size. Does a nice job gaining separation. Plays with good leverage. Shows adequate recognition skills.

Weaknesses: Lacks overall athleticism and the quickness to penetrate the line of scrimmage. Has trouble shedding blocks and making plays. Is not a threat as a pass rusher.

Bottom line: Is a situational run stuffer whose lack of bulk prevents him from having a bigger role on the Cowboys' defense. **GRADE: 6.8**

T57. Ryan Pickett, Rams 6-2 310 Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Holds up well against the run and is very disruptive when he plays with leverage. Shows a quick first step and an excellent burst to the quarterback.

Weaknesses: Struggled through a hamstring injury last season. Tends to wear down in games. Effort is inconsistent. Will play too high at times.

Bottom line: Still has a lot of work to do to improve his technique and must be more consistent. But he has the size, strength and quickness to make an impact in a limited role (15 to 20 plays per game). **GRADE: 6.8**

T57. Kelvin Pritchett, Lions 6-3 319 Age: 32 12th year

Strengths: Clogs gaps. Is an anchor against double teams and holds up at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks the explosive first step and quickness to be a factor in the passing game. Is aging and natural skills are on the decline. Lacks athleticism.

Bottom line: Situational two-gap run stuffer who will keep Shaun Rogers fresh but likely struggle as a starter. **GRADE: 6.8**

T64. Barron Tanner, Cardinals 6-3 347 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Has adequate upper-body strength and overall bulk. Fights every down to get into position and keep leverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks the lower-body strength to hold up at the point of attack. Wears down late in games and lacks the legs and stamina to hold ground against power running games. Lacks the speed to consistently

SO MANY DIFFERENT GAMES.

Do You
YAHOO!
?

SO MANY FEATURES.

SO MANY WAYS TO

AVOID
WORK.

YAHOO!
Sports

SportingNews
com

FOOTBALL.FANTASYSPORTS.YAHOO.COM

make impact plays.

Bottom line: Will play 10 to 15 snaps a game against the run to help bolster the line rotation.

GRADE: 6.7

T64. Larry Webster, Jets

6-5 315

Age: 33 10th year

Strengths: Displays good overall strength and takes up space in the middle. Can make plays behind the line of scrimmage. Is an outstanding reserve.

Weaknesses: Does not make a lot of plays in pursuit. Must disengage more quickly. Gets overwhelmed in the short area and lacks ideal bulk.

Bottom line: Should improve the Jets' run defense on first and second downs but will be replaced on passing downs.

GRADE: 6.7

T66. Fred Robbins, Vikings

6-4 313

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent size and shows the ability to take up space and blockers. Plays with excellent balance and almost never gets knocked down. Is capable of splitting or anchoring against the double team.

Weaknesses: Lacks initial quickness and closing speed to be a factor in the passing game. Wears down over the course of a game and does not show consistent focus.

Bottom line: Second-year starter who will play more of a run-stuffing situational role to stay fresh and rotate with two other nose tackles.

GRADE: 6.6

T66. Glen Steele, Bengals

6-4 300

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has quickness off the snap to make plays behind the line. Is at his best making plays on the move and has good athletic ability. Has great anticipation and does a good job of reading keys. Has great hands.

Weaknesses: Has marginal strength and will get knocked back off the snap at times. Plays with a nonstop motor but will wear down if forced into starting lineup. Lacks closing speed as a pass rusher.

Bottom line: Situational run stuffer who lacks ideal size and needs to be rested. Is very active and disruptive.

GRADE: 6.6

T68. Tim Bowens, Dolphins

6-4 320

Age: 29 9th year

Strengths: Has excellent strength and can anchor the line. Shows good initial quickness and can make plays in the backfield. Has excellent recognition skills and good instincts. Is considerably better against the run than as a pass rusher. Plays through pain.

Weaknesses: Lacks closing speed, change of direction skills and the athletic ability to make plays in the open field. Work ethic is marginal.

Bottom line: Should have another productive season as a starter but durability is becoming a concern.

GRADE: 6.5

T68. Brentson Buckner, Panthers

6-2 305

Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: An active player who has a good

motor. Shows quickness and penetrating skills in the running game. A solid, wrap-up tackler.

Weaknesses: Cannot play every down. Lacks effectiveness in the passing game. Lacks explosive quickness and closing speed. Lacks great height and doesn't play with leverage.

Bottom line: Is a veteran best suited to play in a wave situation. Can play nose tackle and tackle in Carolina's defense and should play 10 to 15 plays per game, mostly on run downs.

GRADE: 6.5

T68. Martin Chase, Saints

6-2 310

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has good size and initial quickness. Shows good strength at the point of attack. Can anchor himself vs. the run. Shows good recognition skills.

Weaknesses: Offers little production as a pass rusher. Must be more consistent. Plays without leverage at times.

Bottom line: Is the No. 3 tackle. Should get quality time as a backup but might never be good enough to be a full-time starter.

GRADE: 6.5

T68. Bryce Fisher, Bills

6-3 268

Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has bulk and a wide body. Shows good initial quickness and burst off the ball. Has good power and uses upper-body strength to take out offensive linemen.

Weaknesses: Must learn to play with leverage consistently; occasionally plays too high and loses power.

Bottom line: Doesn't have ideal speed but has size and strength to develop into a solid every-down starter—if he improves technique.

GRADE: 6.5

T68. Henry Ford, Titans

6-3 295

Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has a strong upper body. Is a tough and physical player. Shows the ability to make the occasional play on the move. Plays with outstanding balance.

Weaknesses: Does not show good initial quickness. Does not have great height and does not show the ability to get his hands up in the passing lanes. Will struggle to hold ground in the running game.

Bottom line: Is a much better fit as a reserve than as a starter, giving this unit an effective three-tackle rotation.

GRADE: 6.5

T68. Paul Grasmanis, Eagles

6-3 298

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has good size and overall bulk. Has developed a strong lower body and shows the ability to anchor against the run. Shows good initial quickness, plays with leverage and uses hands to disengage from blocks.

Weaknesses: Lacks the burst and closing speed to rush the passer. Does not have good overall athletic ability.

Bottom line: Is an overachieving backup in a four-man tackle rotation. Makes up for a lack of natural tools with sound technique and aggressive play.

GRADE: 6.5

T68. Michael Myers, Cowboys

6-2 292

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good overall athletic ability, quickness and balance. Fires out of stance and plays with leverage. Can penetrate and make plays in the backfield. Recognizes the run and reacts well to blocks. Has improved pass-rush repertoire.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and struggles to hold ground against double teams. Lacks the lower-body strength to consistently take on blocks. Can be overwhelmed at point of attack.

Bottom line: A former starter who should be more productive as a situational player.

GRADE: 6.5

T68. Derrick Ransom, Chiefs

6-3 310

Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Is a big, powerful player who can neutralize the double team and be a disruptive force vs. the inside running game. Plays with a good motor.

Weaknesses: Is not an overly athletic. Does not have many pass-rush moves—a bull rusher who has marginal inside quickness and explosiveness.

Bottom line: Is a run-stopping reserve who will have to fight for playing time in the tackle rotation.

GRADE: 6.5

T68. Bernard Whittington, Bengals

6-5 280

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Gives great effort and plays with a great base. Has good size. Displays outstanding recognition skills and plays with excellent leverage. Has great anticipation skills and a feel for the game.

Weaknesses: Does not have good closing burst to the quarterback. Lacks ideal athletic ability and footwork. Is not much of a factor on line stunts and does not appear comfortable in space.

Bottom line: Is a situational run stuffer who should continue to contribute on obvious running downs.

GRADE: 6.5

T77. John Browning, Chiefs

6-4 293

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Outstanding measurables, good speed and athleticism. When healthy, can really flash with some big plays. Has a nice first step and some explosiveness. Has good overall range and an excellent motor.

Weaknesses: Not a power player and cannot mix it up at the point of attack. Not as effective playing the run unless on the move.

Bottom line: Reserve who hasn't shown the ability to hold up for a full season but will go hard on every snap.

GRADE: 6.4

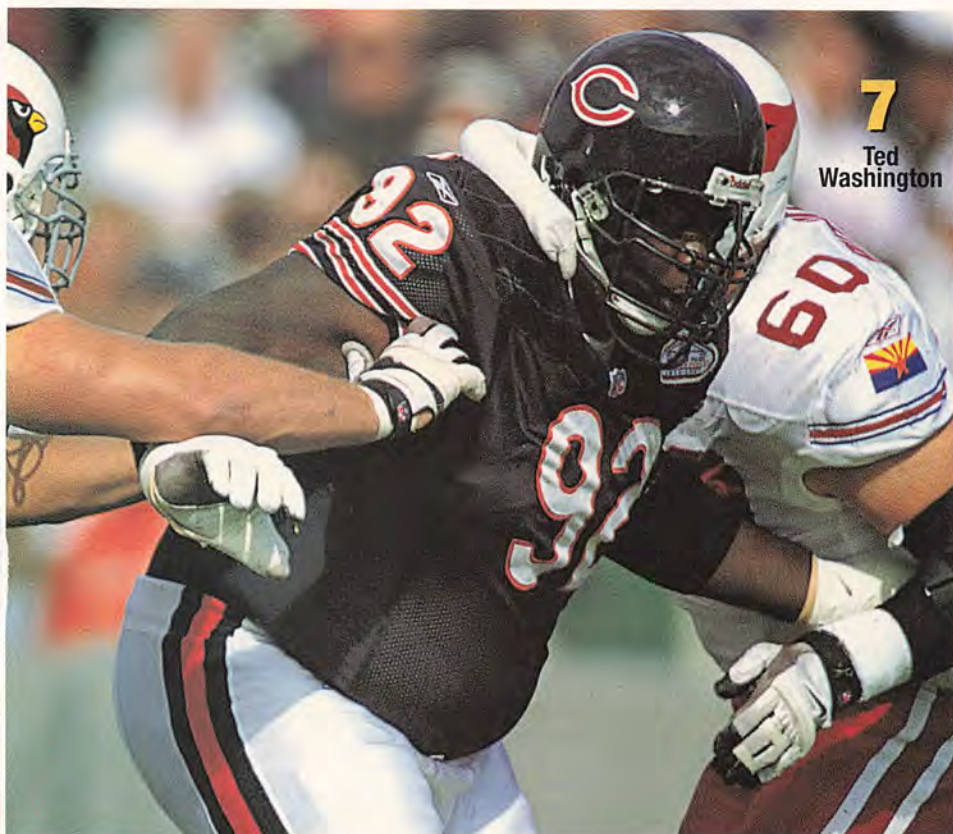
T77. Stalin Colinet, Jaguars

6-6 288

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Is fundamentally sound. Has a nice first step and some quickness. Gives great effort on every play.

Weaknesses: Is not big or physical and struggles in a small area. Tends to wear down as season goes on. Does not make a lot of plays.



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

Bottom line: A solid backup who should not be starting. **GRADE: 6.4**

T77. Chris Cooper, Raiders

6-5 275 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Athletic and versatile player who never stops hustling. Uses techniques and limited quickness to his advantage. An excellent first step.

Weaknesses: Undersized. Needs to get stronger to play well against the run at the point of attack. A finesse-type player who lacks the great quickness of a typical edge rusher.

Bottom line: Needs to add bulk to play tackle but is a solid backup and a contributor on special teams. **GRADE: 6.4**

T77. Jermaine Haley, Dolphins

6-4 305 Age: 29 3rd year

Strengths: Has elite strength and good size. Shows some ability to adjust in space. Is much better against the run than the pass.

Weaknesses: Durability is a concern after he missed time because of a thumb injury last season. Does not have ideal recognition skills and struggles at times to locate the ball. Lacks quickness and does not explode out of stance.

Bottom line: An effective reserve because of his ability to stuff the run, but he has yet to show he could handle the load as a full-time starter. **GRADE: 6.4**

T77. Tyoka Jackson, Rams

6-2 280 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Is quick and shows the ability to

get upfield as both a one-gap tackle and an edge rusher. Will work to chase down plays.

Weaknesses: Does not have great closing speed to the quarterback and lacks the lower-body strength and base to hold his ground against the run.

Bottom line: Is versatile enough to play inside and outside but is not dominant in either spot. **GRADE: 6.4**

T77. Travis Kirschke, Lions

6-3 287 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Makes plays in space. Has good feet and range. Can get penetration and make plays in the backfield.

Weaknesses: Lacks bulk and tires when teams run at him. Lacks great athletic ability; pass-rushing skills are marginal.

Bottom line: Is an undersized one-gap tackle who knows assignments and keeps Luther Elliss fresh. Is just adequate in this role. **GRADE: 6.4**

T77. Kenny Smith, Saints

6-3 289 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has a quick first step. Is powerful and has good size. Shows good feet and lateral movement. Is aggressive.

Weaknesses: Must work on run/pass recognition. Lacks ideal size. Is not an explosive tackler. Lacks the speed of an edge rusher. Needs more experience.

Bottom line: Never will be an edge rusher or a full-time starter at tackle. Has potential to develop into a power end who plays on first and second downs and gives way to a pass rusher on third down. **GRADE: 6.4**

T77. Shawn Worthen, Vikings

6-0 316 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Comes off the ball hard and can stack blocks at the point of attack. Is determined to find the ball on every play and plays with a tremendous motor. Flashes the ability to collapse the pocket with power.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal athletic ability and range. Doesn't appear comfortable making plays in space. Lacks closing speed and initial quickness to be an effective pass rusher. Lacks great instincts and recognition skills.

Bottom line: Situational run stuffer who should contribute around 20 snaps a game and has size and power to be effective. **GRADE: 6.4**

T85. Marcus Bell, Cardinals

6-2 323 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: A widebody who shows good initial burst and the ability to penetrate a gap. Competes hard. Can be powerful at the point of attack when rested.

Weaknesses: Limited in terms of potential and does not have great stamina, speed or athletic ability. Not much of a pass rusher.

Bottom line: Has some upside as a situational run stuffer but isn't likely to develop into anything more. **GRADE: 6.3**

T85. Alfonso Boone, Bears

6-4 325 Age: 26 2nd year

Strengths: Is aggressive and has the size to clog gaps and take up space against the run. Does a nice job coming off the ball low. Plays with leverage.

Weaknesses: Struggles to keep separation and needs to add some pass-rush moves. Must learn how to get into better position initially.

Bottom line: Quality No. 3 tackle who has the size to excel in the Bears' scheme. Could see more time this season as the top sub for starters Keith Traylor and Ted Washington. **GRADE: 6.3**

T85. Winfield Garnett, Vikings

6-6 320 Age: 26 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size. Shows the lower-body strength to anchor against the run. Shows good athletic ability and flashes the ability to make plays in space.

Weaknesses: Has had problems staying in shape and appears to wear down over the course of a game. Does not have the explosive first step or closing speed to be an effective pass rusher. Needs to play with better leverage.

Bottom line: Reserve who likely will not get much playing time and must stay in shape and play with better technique. **GRADE: 6.3**

T85. Junior Ioane, Raiders

6-4 320 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has outstanding size and good upper-body strength. Can hold up against a powerful blocker at the point of attack. Can push the pocket and disrupt blocking schemes because of his massive size.

Weaknesses: Has been troubled by nagging

injuries. Lacks range. Is less effective outside of traffic and when rushing the quarterback.
Bottom line: Is an asset as a run-stuffing tackle who absorbs blockers and frees up linebackers to make plays. **GRADE: 6.3**

T85. Reggie McGrew, 49ers

6-1 312 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Shows good natural strength and the frame to take up space and blockers. Has the lower-body strength to hold his ground at the point of attack. Has quick feet, good change of direction skills and decent athletic ability.

Weaknesses: Has a history of injuries and inconsistent effort. Has difficulty disengaging from blocks.

Bottom line: No. 3 tackle for the 49ers.

GRADE: 6.3

T85. Mike Mohring, Raiders

6-5 295 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Is big and plays physical. Can use power and leverage to stand up and move aside defenders at the point of attack. A run-stuffer who challenges double teams and fights aggressively to make plays.

Weaknesses: Lacks range. Does not make many big plays behind the line of scrimmage or on the outside because of limited athletic ability.

Bottom line: Is a good backup who performs well against the run or close to the goal line for a short period.

GRADE: 6.3

T85. John Nix, Cowboys

6-1 326 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent lower-body strength and a wide frame. Comes off the ball low and shows the ability to anchor against the run.

Weaknesses: Has marginal quickness, speed and athletic ability. Struggles to find the ball at times. Has problems disengaging blocks and does not show much burst. Lacks the explosive first step to penetrate and make plays in the backfield.

Bottom line: Is a situational run stuffer who should improve with experience.

GRADE: 6.3

T85. James Reed, Jets

6-0 286 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: A one-gap penetrator who relies on quickness to make plays. Has excellent athletic ability. Is very competitive.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal height and struggles to get his hands up in the passing lanes. Lacks the bulk to anchor against the double team. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Is not ready to carry the load as a full-time player, but with more time and added strength he could become an effective starter.

GRADE: 6.3

T93. John Burroughs, Rams

6-5 276 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Has good instincts and recognition skills. Uses hands and long arms to keep separation. Plays with a great motor and is relentless when chasing down plays. Shows



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

good upper-body strength and is a powerful tackler who gets in good position and wraps up.

Weaknesses: Lacks quickness. Sat out last season because of an ankle injury. Does not show great pass-rush moves.

Bottom line: Experienced run stuffer who has good power but lacks ideal speed. Has serious durability concerns.

GRADE: 6.2

T93. Ron Edwards, Bills

6-3 305 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent ability. Can generate a lot of power when he plays with leverage and fires out of stance.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent; doesn't always play with leverage and is too lean to stand up tall. Doesn't have great lower-body strength, and opposing linemen typically can knock him off the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Reserve who needs to add more bulk, play with more consistent leverage and show more explosiveness in the passing game.

GRADE: 6.2

T93. Ernest Grant, Dolphins

6-5 315 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Prototypical run stuffer who has excellent size. Plays with a great motor and never stops working to find the ball. Has the work ethic and youth to improve with time. Has solid recognition skills.

Weaknesses: Is not explosive and lunges at offensive linemen. Lacks athletic ability and does not have great change of direction skills. Must be rested to be effective.

Bottom line: Run-stopping ability makes him a valuable member of the line but strictly as a backup.

GRADE: 6.2

T93. Larry Smith, Jaguars

6-5 300 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has good athleticism and shows

some flash as a pass rusher. Has good first-step quickness. Is best when on move and using his feet.

Weaknesses: Is not consistent. Does not see blocks coming and can be knocked off ball. Does not anchor well on running plays.

Bottom line: Has some potential; is the team's No. 3 tackle.

GRADE: 6.2

T93. Rod Walker, Packers

6-3 320 Age: 26 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and can take up space and blockers. Can be overpowering at the point of attack. Is physical and aggressive.

Weaknesses: His effort is inconsistent, and he appears lazy at times. Needs to stay in better shape. Has poor recognition skills.

Bottom line: A two-gap run stuffer who is expected eventually to replace Gilbert Brown. Has excellent strength and adequate quickness at times but must keep weight down.

GRADE: 6.2

T93. Cedric Woodard, Seahawks

6-2 311 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has initial quickness and plays with good pad level. Shows adequate recognition skills. Has good upper-body strength. Shows some power and toughness at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks great bulk and does not have a lot of experience.

Bottom line: Plays hard, has a good motor and has enough size to take up space. Capable of giving a starter some rest (five to 10 plays per game) but lacks the upside to become a starter.

GRADE: 6.2

T99. James Cannida, Colts

6-2 305 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Holds his ground well at the point of attack. Displays good intelligence and instincts. Has good athleticism.

Weaknesses: Lacks size and height. Gets pushed back at the line when an offensive lineman can get under his pads. Not a factor in pass rush because of lack of speed. Won't knock down many balls.

Bottom line: A depth player who is capable of contributing no more than 15 to 20 snaps a game on running downs.

GRADE: 6.1

T99. Joe Salave'a, Titans

6-3 295 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has quick moves to the inside when he is rushing the passer. Does a good job of wrapping up the ballcarrier and rarely misses a tackle. Will play to the whistle on every snap.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size. Is a liability in the running game. Does not play with leverage and will get blown back at the point of attack.

Bottom line: When healthy, is an extremely active and disruptive force. Will provide good depth.

GRADE: 6.1

T99. Henry Taylor, Dolphins

6-2 295 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is extremely active and disruptive.

Has good athletic ability and straight-line speed. Can chase down plays and takes great angles to the ball. Has a great work ethic and shows a willingness to improve. Has elite recognition skills and rarely takes a false step.
Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size and strength. Does not have great pass-rush moves. Has problems staying healthy.

Bottom line: Probably is not talented enough to start but can be an effective reserve if used properly.
GRADE: 6.1

T99. Darwin Walker, Eagles

6-3 294 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Always is prepared and rarely misses an assignment. Has good quickness and mobility. Showed significant improvement last season.

Weaknesses: Does not have the lower-body strength to anchor against the run. Comes out of his stance too high. Lacks closing burst as a pass rusher and to the ballcarrier.

Bottom line: Developmental backup tackle who could contribute 10 to 15 snaps a game but needs experience, improved recognition skills and better technique.
GRADE: 6.1

T103. Willie Blade, Cowboys

6-2 320 Age: 23 1st year

Strengths: Displays good quickness and athleticism. Takes proper angles to ball. Has good strength and gets good initial pop.

Weaknesses: Missed 2001 season because of a wrist injury, so durability and lack of experience are concerns. Will allow linemen into his body and has a hard time disengaging blocks. Work ethic has been questioned, and there are character concerns.

Bottom line: Is a developmental player who must improve technique, stay healthy and stay out of trouble.
GRADE: 6.0

T103. Nate Hobgood-Chittick, Chiefs

6-3 290 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has good overall athletic ability, size and a feel for the game. Fights hard to make the play and holds up fairly well vs. the run. Does not make a lot of mistakes.

Weaknesses: Doesn't show a great burst to the quarterback or a lot of big-play abilities. Durability is a concern. Injuries could become a problem.

Bottom line: Reserve who certainly is replaceable but always manages to catch on somewhere and plays a decent role on the line.
GRADE: 6.0

T103. Carl Powell, Redskins

6-2 264 Age: 28 3rd year

Strengths: Does a nice job fighting across blocks to make plays in the running game. Has good balance and feet. Has the lower-body strength and bulk to anchor.

Weaknesses: Comes out of stance too high and allows offensive linemen to get into body. Does not have the speed to turn the corner as a pass rusher. Has yet to develop pass-rush moves.

Bottom line: Situational run stuffer who has good size and experience but is too inconsistent and must play with better leverage.
GRADE: 6.0

T103. Tyrone Robertson, Bills

6-4 295 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is at his best when penetrating. Is athletic, runs well and chases down plays. Works hard and hustles.

Weaknesses: Comes out of his stance too high at times and lacks the bulk to play without good leverage.

Bottom line: Reserve who may never develop into a full-time starter but has the quickness and ability to give the Bills 10 to 15 plays a game as an interior pass-rush specialist.
GRADE: 6.0

T103. Jason Wiltz, Bears

6-4 300 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size and can hold up blockers in a two-gap scheme. Shows a strong lower body and base.

Weaknesses: Takes plays off and gets tired, sloppy and lazy at times. Does not show the ability or willingness to work to split the double team. Has had a hard time staying healthy.

Bottom line: Fits the role of a No. 4 tackle in Chicago, where expectations are low and he won't be expected to play more than 10 to 15 plays a game.
GRADE: 6.0

T108. Sam Adams, free agent

6-3 330 Age: 29 8th year

Started 14 games for Baltimore last season but was bothered by knee problems most of year. Big, physical two-gap tackle who can stop the run and protect the middle linebacker.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Delbert Cowsette, Redskins

6-1 288 Age: 25 2nd year

No. 3 tackle who lacks the bulk to hold up at the point of attack in the running game. Would struggle if forced into the starting lineup.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Chartric Darby, Buccaneers

6-0 270 Age: 26 2nd year

Lacks great skills but can be effective while working on the move. Not a starter but a solid short-term replacement.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Jerry DeLoach, Texans

6-2 315 Age: 25 2nd year

Reserve run stuffer who has good size, power and adequate instincts but lacks athletic ability, does not have great speed and appears to wear down over the course of a game.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Santana Dotson, Redskins

6-5 285 Age: 32 10th year

Played a lot for Green Bay last season. Still has decent quickness and penetrating skills and is effective in stunts and on the move. But is not a great run defender.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Josh Evans, Jets

6-2 280 Age: 30 6th year

Has had lots of off-field problems—missed part of 1999 and all of 2000 season after violating the league's substance abuse policy. Has excellent feet and quickness and one-gap penetration skills. Can be a huge producer—if he stays out of trouble.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Jim Flanigan, 49ers

6-2 290 Age: 31 7th year

Backup tackle for Green Bay last season who was

signed for the same role by the 49ers. Is more of a one-gap player than a two-gap run stuffer. Gets by on instincts, experience and effort.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Darius Holland, Vikings

6-5 330 Age: 28 7th year

Run-stuffing reserve who has excellent size and strength and adequate athletic ability. Lacks the quickness, closing speed and explosiveness of an effective pass rusher.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Jerry Johnson, Broncos

6-0 290 Age: 25 3rd year

Has the quickness to develop into an effective situational pass rusher (10 to 15 snaps a game) but lacks the size needed to fill a bigger role.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Norris McCleary, Chiefs

6-6 305 Age: 25 2nd year

Reserve who may have been the top player in NFL Europe at his position. A two-gap, run-stuffing tackle who fades late in games and lacks great range.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Mario Monds, Bengals

6-3 325 Age: 25 2nd year

Massive interior player who does an excellent job against the run and provides depth. Recovering from knee injury suffered in NFL Europe and would benefit from losing weight to gain quickness.
GRADE: 5.9

T108. Riddick Parker, free agent

6-3 295 Age: 29 6th year

A situational pass rusher who can contribute 10 to 15 snaps each game on obvious passing downs.
GRADE: 5.9

120. Terrell Sands, Chiefs

6-8 340 Age: 22 1st year

Big, physical player who has interesting developmental qualities. Has yet to transfer skills into production.
GRADE: 5.8

121. Mike Wells, free agent

6-3 315 Age: 31 9th year

Bad shoulders have taken their toll on this one-time Bears starter. Is no longer a power player but is a try-hard player.
GRADE: 5.7

T122. Joe Brown, Seahawks

6-6 288 Age: 25 2nd year

Is a one-gap penetrator who has good quickness and a nice first step. Also has some long-snapping ability.
GRADE: 5.6

T122. Christian Peter, free agent

6-3 292 Age: 29 5th year

Played for the Colts last season but has faded badly. Success is based on quickness, movement and a good first step—and he has lost all of it.
GRADE: 5.6

T124. Marcus Spriggs, Browns

6-4 314 Age: 26 4th year

Has some talent but can't stay healthy. Big, physical player who has marginal speed and movement. Needs to make more plays.
GRADE: 5.6

T122. John Schlecht, 49ers

6-0 290 Age: 24 2nd year

Developmental No. 5 tackle who lacks ideal speed, size and burst but is active and disruptive. Will make main contributions on special teams.
GRADE: 5.6

T126. Lance Legree, Giants

6-1 285 Age: 24 2nd year

Situational run stuffer who hustles and has good recognition skills but lacks ideal size for the role and tends to come out of his stance too high.
GRADE: 5.5

T126. Leon Lett, free agent

6-6 290 Age: 33 11th year
Production fell apart last season, when he was a backup in Denver. Lacks range, effort and consistency. **GRADE: 5.5**

T126. Maa Tanuvasa, Falcons

6-2 270 Age: 31 8th year
Is starting to fade but still knows angles and how to rush the quarterback. Is too small to hold up vs. the inside run. Finished last season on the injured list (broken ankle) with the Chargers. **GRADE: 5.5**

120. Ross Kolodziej, Giants

6-2 287 Age: 24 2nd year
Reserve who stuffs the run and does a nice job using upper-body strength to disengage blocks. Has marginal athletic ability and lacks explosiveness. **GRADE: 5.3**

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. John Henderson, Jaguars

6-7 318 Tennessee, 1st round
Strengths: Is big and physical and can play any style. Can control the point of attack with his size and bulk. Neutralizes inside running plays. Is fundamentally sound. Has good change of direction skills and lateral movement.

Weaknesses: Had a lot of nagging injuries in college last season that affected his consistency, so durability is questionable. Does not have an explosive first step. Does not always play with leverage.

Bottom line: Was the most talented tackle in the draft. Will become a dominant player over time. **GRADE: 9.7**

2. Albert Haynesworth, Titans

6-6 320 Tennessee, 1st round
Strengths: Has outstanding size. Shows the ability to take up space and block. Has excellent change of direction skills and footwork for his size. Shows the ability to make the occasional play in space.

Weaknesses: Contributes less against the pass. Does not show a variety of pass-rush moves or the ability to set up the offensive lineman on the outside. Needs to cut down the angle to the quarterback. Will fly upfield and take himself out of the play at times. Does not show the quickness late in a game that he does early.

Bottom line: Has tremendous potential because of size, explosiveness and athletic ability. Is capable of making a significant contribution. **GRADE: 9.6**

3. Wendell Bryant, Cardinals

6-4 308 Wisconsin, 1st round
Strengths: Is disruptive. Has great size and quickness. Has good closing speed. Never stops hustling. Dominates most one-on-one matchups. Has great anticipation and explosive first step.

Weaknesses: Must improve lower-body strength. Doesn't always play with good leverage. Gets frustrated and gives up on

plays when double teamed.

Bottom line: Was the most explosive one-gap tackle in the draft. Should make a difference right away. **GRADE: 9.5**

4. Ryan Sims, Chiefs

6-4 311 North Carolina, 1st round
Strengths: Shows an explosive first step and good initial quickness. Capable of shooting gaps and making plays in the backfield. Plays with a tremendous motor and never stops working to get to the ballcarrier. Shows the ability to collapse the pocket as a pass rusher. Much better at defending the run.

Weaknesses: Lacks great overall speed and does not show a variety of pass-rush moves. Does not show good closing speed on the quarterback. Lacks ideal bulk.

Bottom line: Will play key role in revitalizing the Chiefs' run defense and will be part of the tackle rotation. **GRADE: 9.4**

5. Larry Tripplett, Colts

6-1 305 Washington, 2nd round
Strengths: Has good bulk and strength. Uses his hands well as a pass rusher. Has adequate anticipation skills. Displays improved pass-rush moves and can redirect plays from inside. Is relentless in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal lower-body strength and height. Appears unable to anchor against double teams. Not much of a factor in the passing game.

Bottom line: Not likely to have a huge impact in first year but should play 10 to 15 snaps each game vs. the run. **GRADE: 8.3**

6. Eddie Freeman, Chiefs

6-3 310 UAB, 2nd round
Plays with a tremendous motor and always is working to get to the ballcarrier. Has good overall athletic ability and is extremely active. Has problems staying healthy, and durability is a concern. Must add bulk and strength to stay at tackle or will have to move to end as a situational player. **GRADE: 7.3**

7. Alan Harper, Jets

6-1 285 Fresno State, 4th round
Must add bulk and lower-body strength without losing any of his explosiveness. Will add depth. Could get some time as a situational interior pass rusher. **GRADE: 6.8**

8. Dorsett Davis, Broncos

6-5 304 Mississippi State, 3rd round
Has a great combination of size and athletic ability. With an improved work ethic and more muscle, has the ability to develop into an outstanding interior lineman. Could push for significant playing time this season. **GRADE: 6.4**

9. Justin Bannan, Bills

6-3 300 Colorado, 5th round
Will contribute immediately on running downs and is a perfect fit for a Bills line that needed more size and run-stuffing talent. **GRADE: 5.9**

10. Rocky Bernard, Seahawks

6-3 294 Texas A&M, 5th round
Except for marginal height, he's the complete physical package. That said, he's too much of a risk for the Seahawks to count on him as a future starter.

But if he stays healthy, he could develop into a good No. 3 or No. 4 tackle. **GRADE: 5.6**

11. Mike Collins, Lions

6-3 310 Ohio State, undrafted free agent
Two-gap run-stuffer who lacks recognition skills. Is a nonfactor as a pass rusher. **GRADE: 5.3**

12. Josh Shaw, 49ers

6-2 279 Michigan State, 5th round
Doesn't have great size and is raw but has a quick first step, knows how to split double teams and shows good instincts. **GRADE: 5.2**

13. Monsanto Pope, Broncos

6-3 300 Virginia, 7th round
Is a developmental player. With added strength and experience, he should develop into an effective situational run stuffer capable of playing 15 to 20 snaps a game. **GRADE: 4.7**

14. Nate Dwyer, Cardinals

6-3 313 Kansas, 4th round
A two-gap tackle who has good run-stuffing ability. Conditioning is a concern. **GRADE: 4.6**

15. Charles Hill, Texans

6-2 293 Maryland, 3rd round
Is a perfect fit as a run-stuffing interior player in Houston's 3-4 defense. Depending on progress, might wind up as the starting nose tackle. **GRADE: 4.5**

16. Aaron Kampman, Packers

6-4 286 Iowa, 5th round
Lacks ideal size for a tackle but has the quickness to be a situational pass rusher inside. **GRADE: 4.4**

17. Jeremy Slechta, Eagles

6-6 285 Nebraska, undrafted free agent
Is an aggressive one-gap tackle who has good burst but also has a history of injuries. Might wind up in the No. 5 slot. **GRADE: 4.3**

18. Clinton Ballard, Jaguars

6-3 315 Southwest Texas State, 6th round
Massive two-gap defender who has outstanding size and decent strength. Is a better run defender than pass rusher. Must improve recognition skills and ability to get off blocks and make plays. **GRADE: 4.0**

19. Ken Kocher, Packers

6-3 328 UCLA, undrafted free agent
A developmental player who has good size and overall speed but needs time to develop technique. **GRADE: 3.6**

T20. Chad Beasley, Vikings

6-5 303 Virginia Tech, 7th round
Has the size and strength to develop into an effective starter. Is not explosive, has a history of injuries and does not show good athletic ability. **GRADE: 3.0**

T20. Howard Green, Texans

6-2 331 LSU, 6th round
Is a two-down player who has the potential to develop into a consistent run-stuffing producer if he keeps his weight down and stays in shape. **GRADE: 3.0**

T20. Matt Mitrione, Giants

6-3 281 Purdue, undrafted free agent
Undersized one-gap tackle who never stops going but lacks an explosive first step and has little potential. **GRADE: 3.0**

T20. John Taylor, Lions

6-3 260 Montana State, 4th round
Undersized developmental player who has good speed. Should contribute on special teams. **GRADE: 3.0**

INSIDE LINEBACKERS

VETERANS

1. Brian Urlacher, Bears

6-4 251

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has elite all-around tools—size, speed, strength, burst, recognition and awareness. Has good instincts and doesn't take a lot of false steps. Has learned how to take on and shed blockers quickly and takes good angles to the ball. Closes on the ball better than any other defender in the league. Has the size to cover tight ends and the speed and athleticism to cover backs. Is a playmaker who can make the big hit or a play in coverage.

Weaknesses: Tends to miss some open-field tackles while trying to make big plays. Must do a better job of breaking down and wrapping up.

Bottom line: Chicago's defensive scheme is built around him. **GRADE: 9.7**

2. Ray Lewis, Ravens

6-1 245

Age: 27 7th year

Strengths: An outstanding player who can make all the plays. Is very athletic and extremely active along the line of scrimmage. Has a great feel for the running lanes. Can physically mix it up off a block. Strong at the point of attack. Does a nice job of wrapping up. Has great overall instincts.

Weaknesses: Must adjust to new scheme. Must improve pass-rushing skills. Tends to be overly aggressive and overruns plays.

Bottom line: The heart and soul of this defense. Has tremendous challenges and obstacles ahead. Must adjust to a 3-4 scheme and a supporting cast that is not as strong as it was. His happiness will be important to the unit's success. **GRADE: 9.6**

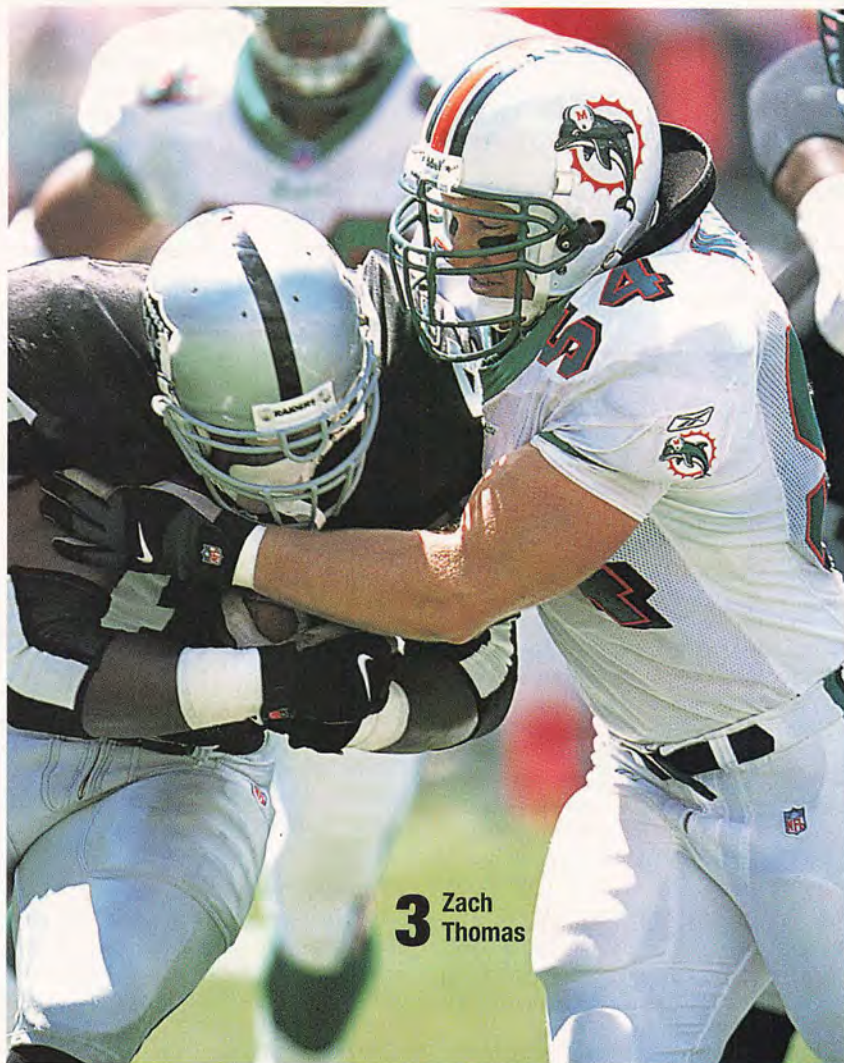
3. Zach Thomas, Dolphins

5-11 235

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Plays with great intensity. Has natural instincts and playmaking ability. Has elite recognition skills and always seems to be around the ball. Shows good athletic ability. Plays faster than his 40 time would indicate. Has an impressive work ethic and is always trying to get better. Never has to come off the field because of his ability to play the pass.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size and bulk to play in the middle, so the probability of injury is high. Can be overpowered. Has problems disengaging blocks and must be protected by good size up front. Is too aggressive at times and overruns the play.



3 Zach Thomas

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

JOB REQUIREMENTS

	Ht.	Wt.	40
NFL optimum	6-2	250	4.55
NFL minimum	5-11	235	4.90

Inside linebackers in a 3-4 and the middle linebacker in a 4-3 share a primary responsibility: stop the run between the tackles. That requires the size and strength to take on and shed blocks and the athletic ability to slip blocks. Middle linebackers often are replaced on passing downs by players who have better speed and cover skills. When an inside linebacker has the tools to stay on the field in coverage situations, it's a tremendous asset.

Bottom line: A perfect fit for the Dolphins' scheme. **GRADE: 9.3**

4. Keith Brooking, Falcons

6-2 245

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Is one of the league's top inside linebackers. Has complete physical package: speed, power and instincts. Is a sideline-to-sideline playmaker vs. the run. Shows excellent ability in space. Shows a consistent ability to shed blocks and find the ball. Does a great job of closing in on the ball carrier. Is sound in the passing game.

Weaknesses: Tends to be overaggressive at times. Is susceptible to play action. Will give up some big plays while gambling. Has had

some injury problems in his brief career and durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Is everything desired in a middle linebacker. Is used to covering the entire middle of the field and it might take him time to adjust to his new, more confined responsibilities as an inside linebacker in the Falcons' 3-4.

GRADE: 9.0

5. Randall Godfrey, Titans

6-2 245 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent straight-line speed and plays with body control. Is a powerful tackler. Shows good explosion to the ball and has great range in both the running game and passing game. Will chase a lot of plays down from behind. Rarely makes a mistake or gets caught out of position.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size for an interior linebacker and will struggle to hold ground at times. Does not play with great leverage or a natural base. Was bothered by minor injuries last year and durability is a concern.

Bottom line: One of the best playmaking interior linebackers in the league. If healthy, should have another productive season.

GRADE: 8.4

T6. Kendrell Bell, Steelers

6-1 254 Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Young player with maturity beyond his years. Explosive with amazing punch, powerful lower body and excellent burst. Very physical tackler, plays with leverage and challenges blockers at point of attack. Adept at playing read-and-react and is successful on move. Makes backside plays versus cutback, and is an outstanding blitzing who had nine sacks as a rookie in 2001.

Weaknesses: Not as adept in pass coverage as he is an upfield, attack player.

Bottom line: Played like a seasoned veteran last year. Has passion for game along with great physical skills. Should continue eye-opening play.

GRADE: 8.3

T6. Jeremiah Trotter, Redskins

6-1 261 Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Is outstanding vs. the run between the tackles and has tremendous strength at the point of attack. Plays with an excellent base and good leverage. Shows the ability to disengage blocks and locate the ballcarrier. Does not take many false steps and has good

recognition skills. Has excellent overall quickness and change of direction. Is an explosive, powerful tackler.

Weaknesses: Is average in coverage; struggles when forced to turn and run with a receiver. Is overaggressive at times and fails to make the open-field tackle while trying to make the big play.

Bottom line: Will benefit from playing in the same scheme that highlighted Ray Lewis' athleticism and range in Baltimore.

GRADE: 8.3

8. Al Wilson, Broncos

6-0 240 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has outstanding speed. Is a fierce competitor who isn't afraid to deliver the big hit. Is a natural on-field leader who plays with great confidence. Can chase plays down from behind. Doesn't need to be replaced on passing downs. Continues to improve.

Weaknesses: Lacks good size. Does not have great balance. Will take himself out of the play occasionally by overpursuing. Needs to improve diagnose skills. Needs to improve ability to fight off blocks.

Bottom line: In the Broncos' scheme, he has the potential to develop into one of the league's elite linebackers. Poised for a breakout season.

GRADE: 8.1

T9. Greg Biekert, Raiders

6-2 255 Age: 33 10th year

Strengths: Tough, instinctive and determined. Is very effective at stopping the inside run. Excellent breakdown tackler.

Weaknesses: Is not effective as a pass rusher; is unable to avoid blocks with quickness or change of direction. Is not an asset in pass defense or in space because of lack of athletic ability.

Bottom line: A great leader who is like another coach on the field for Raiders. Best suited as first- and second-down run stopper.

GRADE: 7.9

T9. London Fletcher, Bills

5-10 241 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Rarely takes a false step. Has outstanding overall quickness and the ability to make plays from sideline to sideline. Does an excellent job using hands and quick feet to get around traffic. Aggressive, explosive and excellent against the inside run despite lack of size.

Weaknesses: Lack of height hurts in coverage. Doesn't show the same instincts and feel in the passing game as in the running game. Loses the battle if on offensive lineman locks on.

Bottom line: Free-agent addition brings intensity to Buffalo defense. Doesn't have the size or natural ability of Sam Cowart, whom he replaces, but is probably less of a durability concern and has been just as productive the past couple of seasons.

GRADE: 7.9

T9. Brian Simmons, Bengals

6-3 248 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has great athleticism and shows the ability to make plays from sideline to sideline. Shows a quick first step and does a good job of filling in the hole quickly. Appears comfortable making plays in space and does a good job of breaking down and wrapping up in the open field.

Weaknesses: Is not very instinctive and will take false steps. Lacks ideal size and power. Will struggle to disengage the block when reached by an offensive lineman. Needs to be replaced on passing downs and appears lost in coverage.

Bottom line: Underrated starter who shows the ability to make plays all over the field. Needs to improve instincts.

GRADE: 7.9

T12. Chris Claiborne, Lions

6-3 255 Age: 24 4th year

Strengths: Displays excellent athleticism and footwork. Has good straight-line speed and playmaking ability. Uses hands to fight through traffic and avoid contact.

Weaknesses: Can be overaggressive. Must improve recognition skills and the ability to disengage blocks. Does not take good angles to the ball and does not always get deep enough in pass coverage.

Bottom line: Starter who still is making the transition to the inside from the weak side, where he probably is a better fit because of his athleticism.

GRADE: 7.7

T12. Dat Nguyen, Cowboys

5-11 243 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has the recognition skills, lateral quickness and athletic ability to play between the tackles. Plays with better strength than size would indicate. Does a nice job of squaring his shoulders when he makes contact and

ON THE RISE: Keith Brooking, Falcons

Brooking, who went to his first Pro Bowl last season, has a combination of great athleticism, speed and size and can make plays from sideline to sideline.

ON THE DECLINE: Greg Biekert, Raiders

He still is productive, but he is aging. Additionally, the team's lack of a complement for DT John Parella means Biekert likely will face too many blockers this season.

SLEEPER: Dan Morgan, Panthers

He's undersized but excels in the inside role. He has excellent instincts and should be able to make plays from sideline to sideline.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Rob Morris, Colts

He has battled injuries and was somewhat inconsistent last season, but if he can put it all together, he will be one of the league's better run stuffers.

BEST IN SPACE: Brian Urlacher, Bears

He is so athletic, the team has used him at tight end in some situations. So it should be no surprise he is comfortable making plays in space.

BEST BLITZER: Jamie Sharper, Texans

Working on a line that may struggle to bring pressure but ahead of an experienced secondary, Sharper should blitz more and improve on his six sacks of 2002.

BEST RUN DEFENDER: Ray Lewis, Ravens

He's intense, aggressive, athletic and fast. As a result, no one plays the run better. He should continue to make big plays despite a weakened supporting cast.

MOST VERSATILE: Brian Urlacher, Bears

He has the speed and size to make plays from sideline to sideline in the running game and can open his hips and run with the back out of the backfield.

shows good initial pop. Quick and intelligent enough to match up in the short-to-intermediate passing game.

Weaknesses: Has marginal size and only adequate playing speed. Struggles when consistently forced to fight through traffic. Can't turn and run with faster receivers.

Bottom line: Is not the prototypical interior linebacker, but he relies on instincts and athleticism to be an effective starter. **GRADE: 7.7**

T14. Mike Barrow, Giants

6-2 240 Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Has good overall speed and adequate size. Is intelligent. Shows outstanding recognition skills and rarely gets caught out of position. Does a great job reading patterns in pass coverage and getting a good drop. Relentless in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Has lost a step with age. Lacks the bulk to stand up blockers and move them aside at the line of scrimmage. Does not play with a good base and lacks lower body strength. Is not a punishing tackler.

Bottom line: Leader who has the athletic ability to make plays from sideline to sideline.

GRADE: 7.6

T14. Charlie Clemons, Saints

6-2 250 Age: 30 6th year

Strengths: Has good speed and quickness. Chases down a lot of plays in the running game. Contributes in the passing game. Has closing speed and big-play ability as a tackler.

Weaknesses: Takes too many poor angles and false steps. Tends to get out of position. Is not physical or aggressive enough in the running game. Lacks ideal strength.

Bottom line: Has the size to become better at the point of attack. Should become a better all-around player with more experience on first and second downs.

GRADE: 7.6

T16. Jamie Duncan, Rams

6-1 238 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Plays with enough leverage to deliver a blow upon contact. Gets into tackling position in the open field and wraps up. Has excellent strength. Shows good lateral movement and has surprisingly good range. Plays with a good motor. Young enough to improve. Played in coordinator Lovie Smith's scheme in Tampa Bay.

Weaknesses: Does not look natural covering backs out of the backfield at times. Better in zone coverage.

Bottom line: Free-agent acquisition who understands the Rams' cover 2 scheme and has the athletic ability to make plays from sideline to sideline. Should be productive.

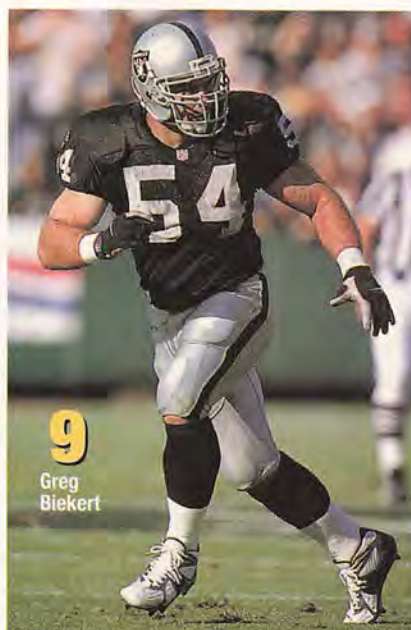
GRADE: 7.5

T16. Dan Morgan, Panthers

6-2 233 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is extremely quick. Is at his best in space and on the move. Is strong and explosive. Does an excellent job of reading and reacting to plays. Has excellent ability to play in coverage.

Weaknesses: Will get caught in traffic. Is not



a threat to bull rush if picked up by a lineman or running back. Injuries and durability are a concern.

Bottom line: Will make the move from outside linebacker to middle linebacker, and with continued improvement should develop into one of the better middle linebackers in the NFL.

GRADE: 7.5

T18. Tedy Bruschi, Patriots

6-1 245 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to play outside or inside. Likes to mix it up at the point of attack. Will attack the line of scrimmage and deliver a blow. Makes a lot of plays. Is an excellent wrap-up tackler.

Weaknesses: Struggles to get off blocks. Is too aggressive at times and will be caught out of position. Tends to get caught in traffic. Often gets knocked off balance.

Bottom line: A throw-back type player who does a little of everything for the Patriots.

GRADE: 7.4

T18. James Farrior, Steelers

6-2 244 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is an excellent space-and-chase player who has great overall range. Has outstanding lateral movement and quickness. Gets through traffic and makes plays on run. An effective nickel edge rusher who has an explosive first step. Can close on a quarterback. Takes on blocks with strength and leverage at point of attack. Uses angles well to get to ball. Is solid open-field tackler who is consistent and productive.

Weaknesses: Lacks natural instincts. Not as effective if teams run directly at him. Does not excel in physical style playing man-to-man over the tight end. Does not make many big plays.

Bottom line: Had 143 tackles for Jets in 2001 but must learn to play inside in Pittsburgh's 3-4 system. Has excellent athletic ability. Will

make necessary adjustments and be an outstanding addition. **GRADE: 7.4**

T18. Earl Holmes, Browns

6-2 245 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Loves to play against the run. Is at his best between the tackles. Has quick hands. Very physical, aggressive inside tackler. Has great diagnose skills. Fills hole with authority. Does a great job of taking on blocks and shedding at the point of attack. Is a solid, powerful, wrap-up tackler.

Weaknesses: Is not great in space. Is not a sideline-to-sideline player. Looks stiff in his turns. Is a two-down linebacker with marginal cover skills.

Bottom line: Should make a successful transition from an inside linebacker in Steelers' 3-4 defense to a middle linebacker in Browns' 4-3, but must be replaced on passing downs.

GRADE: 7.4

T18. Levon Kirkland, Eagles

6-1 275 Age: 33 11th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and strength. Has good footwork and stays balanced. Very powerful at the point of attack. Sound tackler.

Weaknesses: Lacks ability to shed blocks and lacks great range outside the box. A liability in pass defense; can be overmatched by speed in man coverage. Tends to look heavy at times and has trouble changing directions in zone coverage.

Bottom line: An aging former Pro Bowl player who might have one or two more good seasons left as a first- and second-down linebacker. Likely will play only 50 percent of the time against teams that use spread offenses.

GRADE: 7.4

T22. Wali Rainer, Jaguars

6-2 245 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is an effective tackler who steps up and delivers a blow. Attacks the line of scrimmage and takes on blockers. Plays with great intensity and makes more plays than his athletic ability would indicate.

Weaknesses: Is not a great athlete and does not have outstanding speed or explosiveness. Cannot play sideline to sideline. Struggles in space.

Bottom line: Will provide stability and consistency on Jaguars defense, but won't make many plays.

GRADE: 7.3

T22. Jamie Sharper, Texans

6-3 240 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has good speed and shows the ability to make plays from sideline to sideline. Possesses good strength and does a good job of disengaging blocks quickly in the running game. Has excellent instincts and diagnose skills. Shows good burst to the ball and does a good job of wrapping up the ballcarrier.

Weaknesses: Will be making the transition from a 4-3 to a 3-4 and will need time to adjust. Will struggle to turn and run with quicker backs out of the backfield and does not have ideal hip flexibility.

Bottom line: Starter who possesses the strength, speed and athletic ability to develop into a great inside player once the makes the adjustment to a new scheme. **GRADE: 7.3**

T24. Chris Draft, Falcons

5-11 232 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good overall athleticism. Is a search-and-flow linebacker who has improved his ability to tackle in the open field. Shows good change-of-direction skills. Is developing into a sideline-to-sideline chase linebacker.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and struggles in traffic. Does not play with great leverage. Lacks lower-body strength. Won't make many big plays.

Bottom line: Is solid in coverage, but lacks size and strength to stand out. Should secure starting job at one of the inside linebacker spots in the Falcons' 3-4 defense. **GRADE: 7.2**

T24. Marvin Jones, Jets

6-2 244 Age: 30 10th year

Strengths: Has outstanding quickness and change of direction skills. A solid wrap-up tackler. Plays with a strong base and great leverage. Shows great instincts and takes good angles to the ball. Plays with a great motor and is a fierce competitor.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and lacks the strength to constantly take on collisions. Durability is a concern. Is not an ideal fit for the Jets' speed-oriented scheme.

Bottom line: Has a year's experience in this scheme and should have another productive season. **GRADE: 7.2**

T24. Ronald McKinnon, Cardinals

6-0 248 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: The vocal leader of the defense. Takes good angles to the ball. Recognition skills are good and rarely is caught out of position.

Weaknesses: Lacks great strength, which hurts him at the point of attack, and the speed to cover most backs in man-to-man coverage. Lacks the ability to turn and run in coverage.

Bottom line: Not among the most talented middle linebackers in the league, but is a smart, heady player whose leadership is important to a young unit. **GRADE: 7.2**

T24. Rob Morris, Colts

6-2 243 Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Can make the big hit and is a powerful tackler. Always seems to be involved in the play. Does a good job of anticipating the play.

Weaknesses: Must do a better job reading blockers. Struggles when forced to take a lead blocker head on. At times is an overaggressive tackler. Ineffectiveness against the pass means he is replaced on those downs.

Bottom line: If healthy, should benefit from improved defensive line play. **GRADE: 7.2**

T24. Derek Smith, 49ers

6-2 245 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has adequate size and strength. Shows good initial pop, plays with leverage

and is able to take on and shed blocks. Displays good instincts and has developed recognition skills. Has improved as a pass rusher.

Weaknesses: Is a bit stiff in turns and does not have elite change-of-direction skills. Has average speed and will struggle to turn and run with faster running backs. Will miss some open-field tackles trying to make the big play.

Bottom line: A veteran starter who is an established leader and productive member of the 49ers' defense. A physical run stuffer who occasionally rushes the quarterback but has limited cover skills. **GRADE: 7.2**

T29. Allen Aldridge, Texans

6-1 254 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: A natural athlete who plays with versatility and is a solid wrap up tackler. Shows adequate cover skills, can drop into zone and does a decent job of turning and running with the running back or wide receiver.

Weaknesses: His range and ability to play sideline to sideline is not what it once was. Has a slight tendency to overrun plays and, as a result, will wind up out of position or on the ground. Age is starting to show.

Bottom line: Smart reserve who will provide stability and depth to young Houston defense. **GRADE: 7.0**

T29. Henri Crockett, Vikings

6-2 238 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has outstanding overall athletic ability and is comfortable making plays in space. Takes good angles to the ball and does a good job chasing plays down from behind. Is explosive and attacks the line of scrimmage in the running game. Shows the ability to cover the back out of the backfield or the tight end.

Weaknesses: Tends to play too aggressively and gets caught out of position on occasion. Lacks the strength to anchor against the run and does not disengage blocks quickly. Key and diagnostic skills need to be quicker.

Bottom line: Has the potential to be productive in Vikings' scheme but needs to play with more discipline. **GRADE: 7.0**

T29. Marvyn Patton, Chiefs

6-2 237 Age: 35 13th year

Strengths: Veteran who gets by on great instincts and overall toughness. Will find the ball and make the play. Excellent hitter, good close-in tackler and very effective as a straight line power blitzer.

Weaknesses: Not nearly effective when trying to get off blocks as when making plays in space. Is not a player who excels pass coverage and a bit of a liability in deep man-to-man situations.

Bottom line: Is an aging starter. Would be more productive against rushing situations but still is a good player and will not make mental mistakes. **GRADE: 7.0**

T29. Shelton Quarles, Buccaneers

6-1 225 Age: 31 6th year

Strengths: Quick off the snap and has good

burst. Makes plays from sideline to sideline. A good tackler who wraps up in the open field. Has some flair for making big plays. Good ability.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have the lower-body strength to hold up at the point of attack. Struggles getting through traffic and taking on blocks. More experienced at outside linebacker.

Bottom line: A starter on the strong side for the last three seasons, he moves to the middle this season. The move makes sense because of his range as a playmaker. **GRADE: 7.0**

T29. Orlando Ruff, Chargers

6-3 250 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good size and solid instincts. Is good against the run, uses his hands well, separates from blockers and can stack at point of attack. Has good short-area punch. Is able to slide, deliver a blow with power and then make the play.

Weaknesses: Lacks the range to be effective in pass coverage. Is not adept at dropping in zone or turning and running in man coverage. Lack of speed and athletic ability prevents him from being a sideline-to-sideline player.

Bottom line: Is a steady, young, hard worker whose role on the Chargers' defense is a first- and second-down run stuffer. **GRADE: 7.0**

T34. Jay Foreman, Texans

6-1 240 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is a good overall technician and shows good speed and athleticism. Covers a lot of ground and is better in space than in tight quarters. Does a nice job of fighting through traffic and making plays along the line of scrimmage.

Weaknesses: Not a real physical player and will get engulfed by bigger offensive linemen at times. Relies too heavily on athletic ability to make plays.

Bottom line: Can provide stability and athleticism to this position but probably will not be a star in Texans' scheme. **GRADE: 6.9**

T34. Barry Gardner, Eagles

6-0 248 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Shows the ability to fight through traffic and shed blockers. Has good recognition skills and rarely takes false steps. An effective tackler who shows better than average quickness.

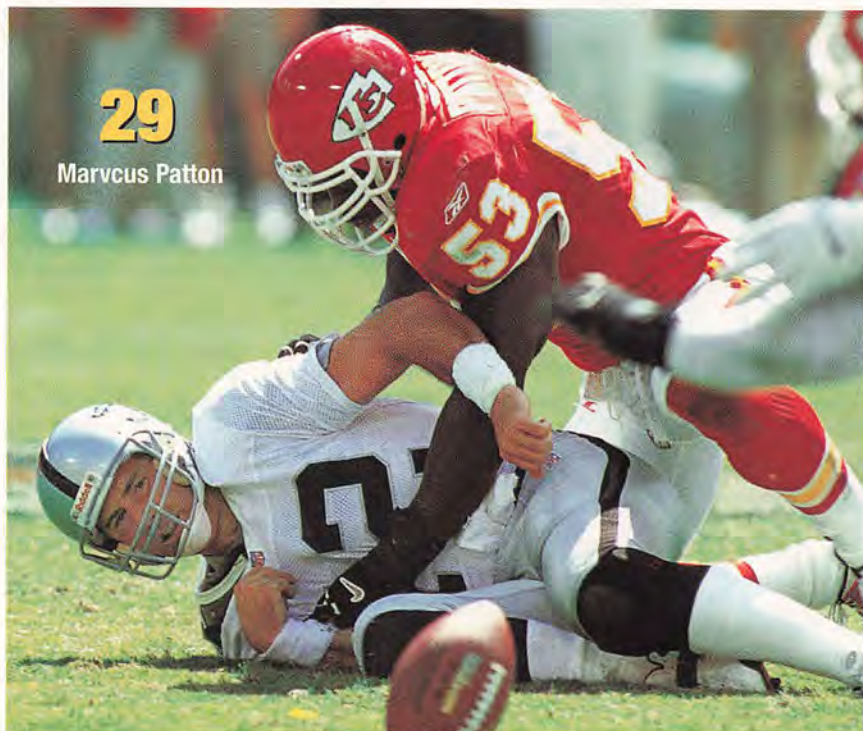
Weaknesses: Has trouble changing directions quickly, struggles to make plays in coverage and speed is a concern. Needs to be replaced on passing downs. Lacks ideal size.

Bottom line: Former weakside linebacker will try to replace departed Jeremiah Trotter in the middle. Should benefit from the move after he gains experience. **GRADE: 6.9**

T33. Ted Johnson, Patriots

6-4 255 Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Has good size. A read-and-react player who has excellent instincts and awareness. Will contribute in pass coverage. Has



29
Marv Patton

good straight-line power. Can cover a lot of ground.

Weaknesses: Injuries have taken a toll on his career; he hasn't played a complete season since 1997. Tends to get caught up in blocks and struggles to get through traffic. Does not avoid blockers at all well.

Bottom line: Although he's projected to start, he fits best as a situational backup in the middle or strong side at this point in his career.

GRADE: 6.9

T34. Kevin Mitchell, Redskins

6-1 254 Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Is well-built and plays with a good base. Has strong lower body and is powerful between the tackles. Plays with good leverage and shows an adequate ability to stack and shed blocks.

Weaknesses: Looks stiff in coverage and does not have ideal change of direction. Lacks the closing speed to get to the quarterback.

Bottom line: Run-stuffing middle linebacker who started for Redskins last season and is capable of filling in long-term in case of an injury. But is not the dominant player Jeremiah Trotter is.

GRADE: 6.9

T34. Hardy Nickerson, Packers

6-2 228 Age: 37 16th year

Strengths: Has outstanding instincts and a nose for the ball. Can read blocks and get through traffic. Has the power and leverage to take on blockers. Does a nice job in space.

Weaknesses: Is not a good man-to-man cover linebacker. Skills are beginning to diminish. Age and durability are huge questions.

Bottom line: The Packers are counting on him to anchor their defense from the middle linebacker spot.

GRADE: 6.9

39. Nate Webster, Buccaneers

5-11 225 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Does a good job reading and reacting. Displays a burst to the ball. A punisher. A leader for the team with his tough-guy mentality. Never stops hustling and has a knack for finding the ball.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and lacks strength to hold up at the point of attack. Durability is an issue. Struggles to get through traffic. Lacks experience.

Bottom line: Has the tools to be a starter but must stay healthy.

GRADE: 6.8

T40. Bryan Cox, Saints

6-4 250 Age: 34 12th year

Strengths: Is strong at the point of attack. Good run stopper between the tackles. Steps up and delivers a blow. Able to drive a blocker back into the ballcarrier.

Weaknesses: Struggles in pass coverage. Lacks speed. Is a liability in man-to-man situations. Has limited range.

Bottom line: Leads by example on first and second downs. Will play in goal-line and other sub-packages at all three linebacker spots. Is excellent with younger players.

GRADE: 6.7

T40. Canute Curtis, Bengals

6-2 257 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Does a good job of exploding through the hole and is very physical. Plays with a nonstop motor, is relentless in pursuit and is a reliable tackler.

Weaknesses: Has limited athletic ability. Does not show the ability to change directions quickly and is a liability in the passing game. Does not have ideal speed. Lacks experience and does not have great instincts.

Bottom line: Adequate reserve who will make

biggest contribution on special teams unless there is an injury.

GRADE: 6.7

T40. Robert Jones, Packers

6-3 245 Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Has great instincts and awareness. Plays with leverage and does good job of taking on blockers at point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks burst to the ball and closing speed when chasing plays from behind. Does not have good change of direction and struggles when working in open areas.

Bottom line: Journeyman who relies on experience and intelligence to make plays. He has lost a step and has some durability concerns.

GRADE: 6.7

T40. Torrance Marshall, Packers

6-2 255 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Is strong at point of attack. Has burst to make plays sideline-to-sideline. Is adequate tackler who can be explosive when chasing. Is fluid in coverage and shows ability to turn and run.

Weaknesses: Lacks experience. Has not developed timing as a blitzing and doesn't have many pass-rush moves. Doesn't always take good angles to ball.

Bottom line: An inexperienced starter who has excellent size and speed but must improve recognition skills.

GRADE: 6.7

T44. Edgerton Hartwell, Ravens

6-1 250 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Plays with a lot of intensity and hustle. Does a nice job between the tackles. Has good lower-body strength. Can deliver a blow. Is not easily knocked off the ball.

Weaknesses: Needs to take better angles to the ball and stay in position. Not a great overall athlete. Does not contribute in pass coverage. Lacks range and ability in space.

Bottom line: Chance to become a good player because of good work ethic. Spent rookie season as reserve but now will start. There is some question whether he is ready to fill that role.

GRADE: 6.5

T44. Lester Towns, Panthers

6-1 252 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size and is strong at the point of attack. Does a nice job of playing with leverage. Has decent pop.

Weaknesses: Does not show the speed or quickness to reach the sideline. Is unable to make a lot of plays outside the box. Has trouble changing directions. Struggles in the passing game.

Bottom line: Is an adequate backup but not good enough to start.

GRADE: 6.5

T46. Brant Boyer, Browns

6-1 230 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Try-hard guy who plays with a nonstop motor. Flies to the ball and plays with reckless abandon. Has a strong first step and can pressure off the edge as a blitzing. Will attack the line of scrimmage against the run.

Weaknesses: Lacks good instincts and awareness. Struggles to hold up at the point of attack. Doesn't fight off blocks quick

enough. Gets exposed when teams run directly at him. Doesn't work well in space and struggles in defending the pass. Has limited all-around skills.

Bottom line: Is a backup and a solid special teams player. **GRADE: 6.4**

T46. Bobby Brooks, Raiders

6-2 240 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has good range. Is impressive in space and a very effective cover guy on special teams. Has good change of direction skills, explosiveness and burst.

Weaknesses: Is not a naturally instinctive linebacker. Has poor diagnostic skills. Struggles vs. the inside run.

Bottom line: Can be effective if used as a situational pass defender but his weaknesses would be exposed quickly if he had to play every down. **GRADE: 6.4**

T46. John Fiala, Steelers

6-3 237 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Provides steady depth and is strong contributor on special teams. A try-hard player who has a good motor and is a skillful cover guy. Is adequate at zone drops in pass coverage.

Weaknesses: Is not a big, physical player and does not have sideline-to-sideline range. Lacks athleticism in open field and spends too much time on the ground. Has poor ability as hole plugger at point of attack and is not skillful as man-to-man cover linebacker in pass situations.

Bottom line: His quality play on special teams will enable him to stay on active roster. Although fairly young, he appears to have descending skills. **GRADE: 6.4**

T46. John Holecek, Falcons

6-2 242 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Does a nice job of stepping up and filling between the tackles. Has good overall recognition vs. the run and in the short passing game. Has a good feel for zones. Is excellent on special teams.

Weaknesses: Is not an every-down player. Needs to stay healthy and on the field. Injuries and age are starting to add up.

Bottom line: Is familiar with defensive coordinator Wade Phillips' 3-4 scheme, so he should be a solid backup and provide quality leadership for the unit while it makes the transition. **GRADE: 6.4**

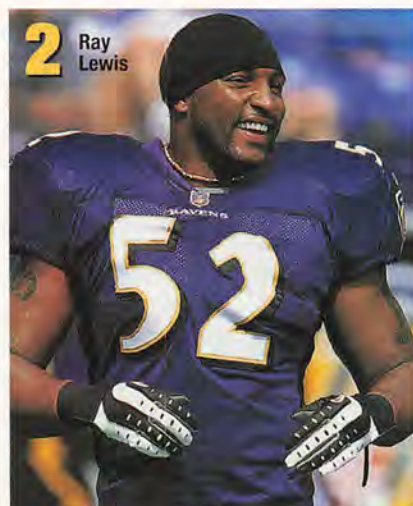
T46. Larry Izzo, Patriots

5-10 228 Age: 27 7th year

Strengths: Does a great job covering kicks on special teams. Has a non-stop motor. Plays with a lot of aggressiveness.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and can be overpowered. Cannot anchor or hold at the point of attack.

Bottom line: Although he has the versatility to play all three linebacker positions, his biggest contributions come on special teams. **GRADE: 6.4**



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

T46. Marty Moore, Patriots

6-1 245 Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Aggressive player who will step up and take on blockers. Does not make many mistakes. Will contribute on coverage teams.

Weaknesses: Does not have good range and struggles in pass coverage. Needs to improve ability to shed blockers. Has had injury problems. Will not make many big plays.

Bottom line: Experienced player who knows what's expected of him, but would be only a short-term fix as a starter. **GRADE: 6.4**

T46. Carlos Polk, Chargers

6-2 250 Age: 25 1st year

Strengths: Has good size and impressive speed. Will attack the hole on running plays and then swarm the ball carrier. Is an aggressive bull rusher.

Weaknesses: Was slowed by injuries last season and plays a lot slower than his advertised speed. Appears stiff and mechanical at times. Lacks instincts and the ability to read plays. Takes too many false steps and gets lost in coverage.

Bottom line: Needs to start reacting more and thinking less. Once he becomes comfortable with the speed of the NFL, he could become a fine player. **GRADE: 6.4**

T46. Johnny Rutledge, Cardinals

6-3 241 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has some power at the point of attack. Is relentless in chasing down ballcarriers.

Weaknesses: Tends to bite on play-action plays and takes poor angles to the ball. Has trouble tackling in the open field and doesn't change direction well. Can look lost in zone coverage.

Bottom line: Has not shown signs of being an every-down player. Must show rapid improvement. **GRADE: 6.4**

T46. Brandon Spoon, Bills

6-2 242 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and works hard on and off the field. Can hold his own in one-on-one battles. Is a physical presence against the run.

Weaknesses: Can look stiff at times and doesn't always show the ability to disengage upon contact. Plays out of control at times and misses some open-field tackles.

Bottom line: Reserve who has the perfect temperament to contribute on special teams and develop behind London Fletcher. **GRADE: 6.4**

T46. Joe Tuipala, Jaguars

6-1 244 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Does an excellent job on the blitz and is at his best attacking the line of scrimmage. Has excellent range, a great motor and makes a lot of plays in space.

Weaknesses: Does not do a consistent job of disengaging blockers, so he tends to get tied up at the point of attack. Does not have a lot of experience in pass drops.

Bottom line: Does not have what is desired in a starting middle linebacker but is an adequate backup. Is outstanding on special teams. **GRADE: 6.4**

56. Chris Gizzi, Packers

6-0 235 Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Has learned to play with leverage and is physical at the point of attack. Has good instincts for the ball, excellent footwork and the ability to make plays against the run in the open. Is a sure tackler.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have great speed or athleticism in coverage.

Bottom line: An undersized reserve who is a solid contributor on special teams but lacks the bulk to hold up against the run and is a liability in man coverage. **GRADE: 6.3**

T57. Isaiah Kacyvenski, Seahawks

6-1 250 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Is big enough to hold up in the middle. Shows good awareness in the box and does a nice job of finding and attacking the ball. Has good strength at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Has trouble changing directions. Needs to play with better leverage and learn to use hands more. Too much of a straight-line player. Has limited experience as a blitzer.

Bottom line: Became the starter when Levon Kirkland was released. **GRADE: 6.2**

T56. Matt Stewart, Falcons

6-3 232 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has a good change of direction and shows an ability to use his hands to stay clean of traffic. Is at his best in space and in coverage.

Weaknesses: Needs to add bulk. Has trouble stacking at point of attack against the run. Is not a powerful tackler.

Bottom line: Is a fluid athlete who did an adequate job on special teams and as a fill-in nickel linebacker as a rookie. Fits best as a backup for at least another year. **GRADE: 6.2**

T57. Sam Sword, Colts

6-1 245 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Is physical, aggressive and tough.

Has adequate strength. Does a good job getting into his drops quickly in zone coverage. Has some starting experience.

Weaknesses: Does not have the size to take on bigger, more physical lead blockers. Has to be replaced on passing downs.

Bottom line: A solid backup who is good enough against the interior running game to be effective. **GRADE: 6.2**

60. Quinton Caver, Eagles

6-4 230 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Possesses great combination of height, muscle mass and speed. Has good range and the ability to make plays from sideline to sideline. Is consistent and a technically sound tackler.

Weaknesses: Plays too high at times and struggles to hold ground at the point of attack. Looks stiff at times and isn't great in coverage.

Bottom line: Developmental prospect who is listed as a backup inside but fits better on the edge and in space and could be moved to the outside. **GRADE: 6.1**

T61. Tommy Hendricks, Dolphins

6-2 233 Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Is athletic and covers a lot of ground. Is physical and aggressive against the run. Has good work ethic and shows a willingness to improve. Plays with a mean streak. A great special teams player.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and can be overpowered.

Bottom line: Must improve technique and add bulk before he develops into a quality backup. **GRADE: 6.0**

T61. Matt Chatham, Patriots

6-4 250 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is outstanding on all cover teams. Will make plays in the kicking game. Has good size. Plays with aggressive attitude. Can contribute against the running game.

Weaknesses: Offers little as a pass defender. Lacks good speed. Does not have great upside as a positional player.

Bottom line: His ability to contribute on special teams keeps him on the active roster. **GRADE: 6.0**

T61. Jamal Brooks, Cowboys

6-2 240 Age: 25 2nd year

Has good speed and strength but needs to improve recognition skills. Is primarily a special teams player. **GRADE: 5.9**

T62. Frank Chamberlin, Titans

6-1 246 Age: 24 3rd year

An adequate reserve who lacks experience and would likely struggle if injuries forced him into the starting lineup. Will continue to provide depth while making his biggest contribution on special teams. **GRADE: 5.9**

T62. Billy Granville, Texans

6-3 246 Age: 28 5th year

Not flashy but possesses blue-collar skills to play inside and outside. Experienced backup. **GRADE: 5.9**

T62. Isaac Keys, Vikings

6-4 265 Age: 24 1st year

Reserve who has excellent athletic ability, shows good strength and appears to be improving. Lacks the recognition and tackling skills to be considered anything more than an adequate backup. **GRADE: 5.9**

T62. Khari Samuel, Texans

6-3 240 Age: 25 4th year

Tough hard-nosed inside player with limited overall athletic ability. A physical guy who could provide some depth. **GRADE: 5.9**

T62. Donnel Thompson, Colts

6-0 234 Age: 24 3rd year

Short and stocky reserve who does a nice job of slipping blocks and making plays in the running game and on special teams but would struggle if forced into the starting lineup. **GRADE: 5.9**

T68. Stephen Boyd, free agent

6-0 242 Age: 30 7th year

Ex-Lions starter who never had great speed and relied on instincts to make plays. Likely will stay retired because back injuries hinder his ability to make plays. **GRADE: 5.8**

T68. Bernardo Harris, free agent

6-2 250 Age: 30 7th year

Ex-Packer was starter a year ago, but range and open-field skills are just adequate. A depth player at this point of career. **GRADE: 5.8**

T68. Ed McDaniel, free agent

5-11 234 Age: 33 10th year

Short but powerful ex-Viking who played at a high level for a long time, but lack of range and durability have caught up with him. **GRADE: 5.8**

T68. Dean Wells, free agent

6-3 248 Age: 32 9th year

Ex-Seahawks starter who was cut by Carolina in offseason. A tough, hard-nosed player who might be too stiff and slow to contribute. **GRADE: 5.8**

T72. Keith Burns, Broncos

6-2 235 Age: 30 9th year

Denver's special teams captain and an adequate backup middle linebacker. Can hold up over a short period of time but there would be a considerable drop in talent and production if starter Al Wilson were to go down with an injury. **GRADE: 5.7**

T72. Kelvin Moses, Jets

6-0 239 Age: 26 2nd year

A special teams player who would struggle as a starter. Has good instincts. Is a solid tackler but lacks ideal size, strength and athletic ability. **GRADE: 5.7**

T72. Quincy Stewart, 49ers

6-1 220 Age: 24 2nd year

Has good speed and range and will make plays in the space and on special teams. Must add bulk. **GRADE: 5.7**

T72. Artie Ulmer, Falcons

6-3 247 Age: 29 5th year

Led the Falcons with 21 special teams tackles in 2001 but never has lived up to expectations as an middle linebacker. **GRADE: 5.7**

T72. Kenyatta Wright, free agent

6-0 238 Age: 24 2nd year

Short and stocky veteran who can be productive at times but lacks athletic ability and is inconsistent on special teams. **GRADE: 5.7**

T77. Curtis Holden, Saints

6-2 232 Age: 23 1st year

Reserve who has worked way up to a special teams

role after beginning on the practice squad. Lacks experience and will not play a significant role until he shows a more consistent effort. **GRADE: 5.6**

T77. Byron Thweatt, Titans

6-2 233 Age: 25 2nd year

Needs to make mark on special teams. Lacks the bulk to hold up inside and lacks the speed to be effective in space. **GRADE: 5.6**

79. Monty Beisel, Chiefs

6-3 267 Age: 24 2nd year

Great effort guy who does not show outstanding quickness or suddenness to the ball. Will battle for playing time in linebacker rotation and should continue to contribute on special teams. **GRADE: 5.0**

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Andra Davis, Browns

6-1 244 Florida, 5th round

Strengths: Has good size and can work inside. Attacks the hole and the ball carrier. Plays with good leverage, stays low and has good lower-body strength. Has excellent pop at the point of attack. Makes a lot of plays on the run. Tough player who has a terrific work ethic—played senior year at Florida with a cast on his thumb.

Weaknesses: Has trouble changing directions and doesn't have great suddenness in his cuts. Is not great in coverage or on the blitz. Shows limited range because of size and speed, and has trouble turning and running with backs in man-to-man coverage.

Bottom line: Is expected to back up veteran Earl Holmes; should make his biggest contributions on running downs. **GRADE: 8.2**

2. Tyreo Harrison, Eagles

6-2 238 Notre Dame, 6th round

Instinctive, active playmaking interior linebacker who lacks ideal bulk but is powerful. If he continues to develop at a high rate, he could become a productive backup over the next two years. **GRADE: 6.7**

3. Larry Foote, Steelers

6-1 234 Michigan, 4th round

Should be an outstanding special teams player while he learns nuances of playing inside linebacker at NFL level. Quickness and ability to play in space may get him playing time in nickel situations. **GRADE: 6.4**

4. Josh Thornhill, Lions

6-2 235 Michigan State, undrafted free agent

Can play all three linebacker positions, which makes him a reserve candidate. Plays aggressively. **GRADE: 6.2**

5. Nick Greisen, Giants

6-1 242 Wisconsin, 5th round

Relies on instincts. Potential to win a reserve role at middle linebacker but lacks speed to do much beyond special teams at this point. **GRADE: 4.0**

OUTSIDE LINEBACKERS

VETERANS

1. Derrick Brooks, Buccaneers

6-0 235

Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Works hard on and off the field. Never has missed a start because of injury. Has tremendous instincts and run-pass diagnostic skills. Has good speed. Chases plays all over the field. Can change direction swiftly and smoothly. Has top-notch tackling skills and excellent abilities in pass coverage. Is a playmaker.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size and strength. Does not play with a strong base and gets overwhelmed by bigger blockers at the point of attack. Tends to struggle getting through traffic.

Bottom line: Has not slowed much the last couple of seasons. Is the ultimate sideline-to-sideline force at linebacker. Is fast, quick and strong. Never seems to have a problem staying healthy or being on the field. **GRADE: 9.3**

2. LaVar Arrington, Redskins

6-3 250

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has become more confident and comfortable. Has size, strength, speed and power. Shows excellent range and the ability to open hips and run with the receiver in coverage. Plays with a non-stop motor and is relentless in pursuit. Punishing tackler who always seems to be around the ball. Can line up as a rush end and has the speed coming off the edge to be a factor.

Weaknesses: Does not do a good job of controlling gaps. Is too aggressive at times and takes himself out of plays. Does not have great recognition skills in terms of reading keys and reacting.

Bottom line: Excels at making plays in space and has developed into one of the top linebackers in the league. Should have a productive year because new defensive coordinator Marvin Lewis will tweak schemes to get him upfield. **GRADE: 9.0**

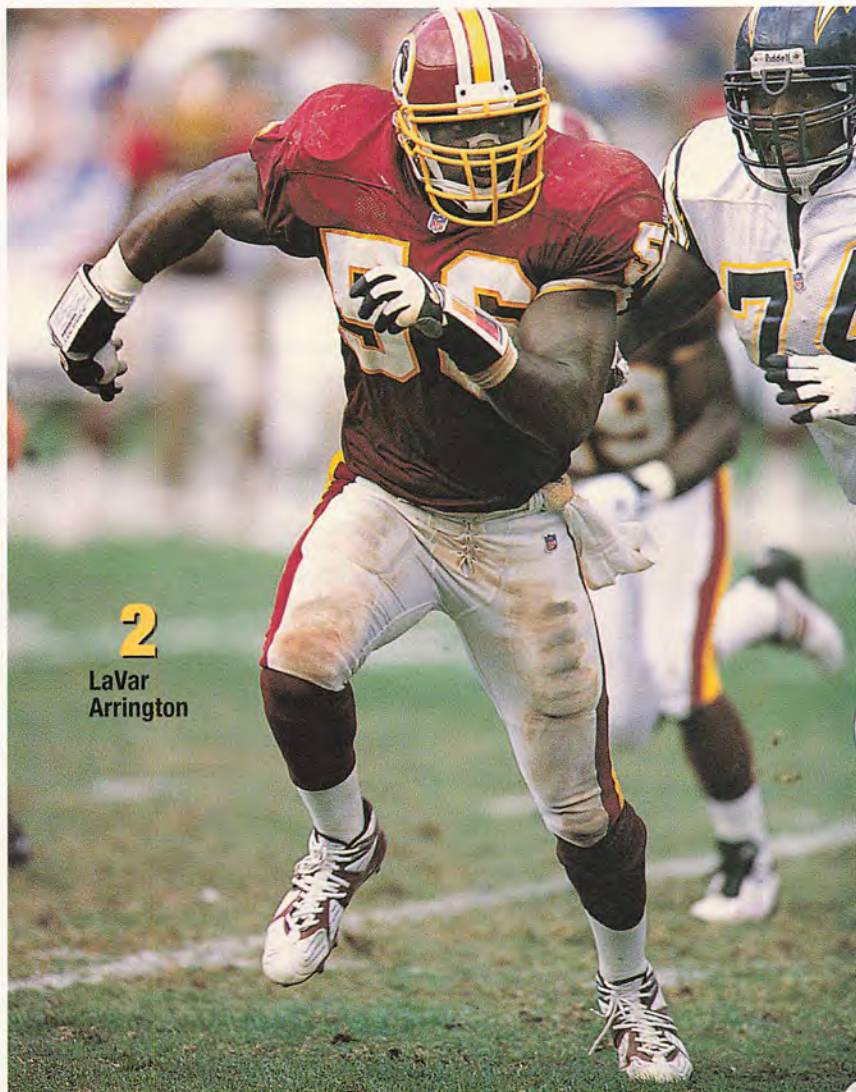
T3. Joey Porter, Steelers

6-3 249

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Outstanding player who has speed and athleticism. Has great explosiveness; first-step quickness enables him to make plays from sideline to sideline. Is adept at getting through traffic and not getting caught in trash. Is a strong effort player who rarely makes mistakes. Is an outstanding open field tackler.

Weaknesses: Is not a big, physical player and



2
LaVar
Arrington

JOHN CORDIS FOR TSN

JOB REQUIREMENTS

	Ht.	Wt.	40
NFL optimum	6-3	245	4.55
NFL minimum	6-0	230	4.90

Outside linebackers don't need great size but must have the strength to shed blocks, the speed to make plays from sideline to sideline and the athletic ability to participate in zone or man-to-man coverage. In a 4-3 scheme, outside linebackers rarely rush the passer, although teams use a speedy weakside linebacker as a situational pass rusher coming off the edge. In a 3-4 defense, outside linebackers are a team's primary pass rushers.

will struggle to hold point if a player runs right at him. Is not a read-and-react player nor is he fundamentally sound.

Bottom line: Plays at a very high level. Is another move type outside linebacker for Pittsburgh, which will allow him to excel as an upfield, aggressive space player. Will have a quality season. **GRADE: 8.3**

T3. Anthony Simmons, Seahawks

6-0 236

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has great speed. Shows good read-and-react skills and can shed blocks and attack the ball. Can run with tight ends and backs in man coverage. Has good change-of-

direction skills. Is a fluid athlete who is aggressive and a good playmaker in space. **Weaknesses:** Lacks good size and can get engulfed at the point of attack. Struggles against power running games. Shows poor recognition skills. Lacks the ability to disengage from blockers at the point of attack. Does not blitz much.

Bottom line: Despite deficiencies, he's one of the better weakside linebackers. Contributes in the nickel and dime packages. Stayed healthy in his first four seasons and continues to improve. **GRADE: 8.3**

5. Dexter Coakley, Cowboys

5-10 230

Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent speed and athletic ability. Does a good job using his hands to shed blocks. Has excellent instincts, lateral quickness and balance. Is relentless in pursuit and closes off cutback lanes. Is an outstanding open-field tackler. Is good at dropping back and getting a great break on the ball in pass coverage. Has a good upfield burst as a pass rusher.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and has some durability concerns. Lacks the bulk and lower-body strength to hold consistently up at point of attack. Occasionally will get caught out of position trying to make a big play.

Bottom line: Is a versatile playmaker who should be more comfortable returning to the weak side after playing on the strong side last season. **GRADE: 8.2**

T6. Junior Seau, Chargers

6-3 250

Age: 33 13th year

Strengths: Is a consistent and tough playmaker. Has an explosive first step, plays sideline to sideline and will drive through a ballcarrier on contact. Excels at dropping into pass coverage. Is smart, instinctive and an avid watcher of film.

Weaknesses: Is less effective when forced to read and react. Does not always take great angles to the ball. Can be caught out of position when teams run directly at him. His age means durability over a 16-game season eventually will become a factor.

Bottom line: A perennial Pro Bowl player who still is as determined and aggressive as ever. **GRADE: 8.0**

T6. Takeo Spikes, Bengals

6-2 245

Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Has great athletic ability. Can

make plays from sideline to sideline in running and passing games. Appears comfortable making plays in space and shows good change of direction skills. Is good in pursuit and shows the ability to run down plays. Has excellent football intelligence and takes great angles to the ball. Does a great job of breaking down and wrapping up in the open field. Shows the ability to turn and run with the back out of the backfield.

Weaknesses: Does not show the ability to rush the passer and must improve at avoiding the blocker in the passing game.

Bottom line: Is an established playmaker who could develop into one of the NFL's best. **GRADE: 8.0**

T8. Chad Brown, Seahawks

6-2 240

Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Has good size and great athleticism. Loves to attack and has a big-play flair. Versatile. Shows ability to excel as an upfield rusher. Has good pop at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Can be engulfed by bigger, stronger players at the point of attack. Struggles to make plays when opponents run right at him. Needs to get off blocks quicker.

Bottom line: Continues to rank among the league's most versatile—and best—playmaking linebackers. **GRADE: 7.9**

T8. Patrick Kerney, Falcons

6-5 273

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is a proven pass rusher who has a quick first step and good overall burst. Has a great motor. Has developed a lot of moves as a pass rusher and has some pop at point of attack as a tackler.

Weaknesses: Has poor overall strength. Lacks the bulk and base to anchor against the run. Does not match up well in the running game against bigger, more physical offensive linemen.

Bottom line: Emerged as a consistent pass-rushing threat last season from defensive end. Is a great fit at outside linebacker in the Falcons' new 3-4 defense, but the transition could take time. **GRADE: 7.9**

T8. Jamir Miller, Browns

6-5 266

Age: 28 9th year

Strengths: Is an upfield, athletic playmaker who has impressive speed and quickness. Shows great burst to the quarterback. Is an up-the-field, disruptive player vs. the run. Is a powerful tackler.

Weaknesses: Does not move as well laterally

or backward as he does coming forward. Has some trouble when forced to stack at the point of attack. Plays too high at times. Doesn't get great leverage and will get knocked off balance at times. Is a much better pass rusher than coverage player.

Bottom line: Is a physical specimen who has great upfield skills as a linebacker and occasional rush end in nickel and dime packages. Will start on the strong side. **GRADE: 7.9**

T11. Jessie Armstead, Redskins

6-1 240

Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Is a leader on and off the field. Is intelligent, shows good recognition skills and rarely is caught out of position. Takes good pursuit angles, has good strength and is a sound tackler. Is relentless in pursuit and still has the burst to chase down running plays.

Weaknesses: Is aging and no longer has ideal speed. Lacks the explosiveness he had as a blitzer. No longer has premier playmaking skills, especially in the passing game. Hamstring injury hindered his production last season, so durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Though he has lost a step, he still is one of the more consistent and disruptive linebackers in the league. **GRADE: 7.8**

T11. Peter Boulware, Ravens

6-4 255

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is most effective upfield. Can get to the quarterback. Is an outstanding athlete who has excellent speed and great quickness. Has a variety of pass-rush moves.

Weaknesses: Is not a physical player. Struggles in coverage. Does not match up well at line of scrimmage. Must improve awareness in coverage. Is not a read-and-react player.

Bottom line: New 3-4 defense is a perfect fit for his talents. Should thrive and easily could post double-digit sacks. Has the ability to become one of the league's premier rush linebackers. **GRADE: 7.8**

T11. Steve Foley, Bengals

6-3 260

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has impressive combination of size and speed. Does a good job of filling holes quickly. Shows great toughness and can shed blocks in a short area. Uses hands well and shows the ability to fight through traffic. Gives great backside chase and is relentless in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Does not play with discipline and shows poor instincts, especially in the

ON THE RISE: Anthony Simmons, Seahawks

He averaged more than 135 tackles the past two years. His combination of speed and athletic ability allows him to make big plays against the run and pass.

ON THE DECLINE: Don Davis, Rams

Robert Thomas and Tommy Polley are battling for the spot opposite him. The player who loses will have a chance to replace Davis, who is solid but not explosive.

SLEEPER: Donnie Edwards, Chargers

He didn't have a great 2001, but the Chargers will try to take better advantage of his athleticism this year. Plus, he will be surrounded by a better supporting cast.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Morlon Greenwood, Dolphins

He has good speed and big-play ability but must play with more discipline and consistency. He is young and should improve with time.

BEST RUN DEFENDER: LaVar Arrington, Redskins

His recognition skills have caught up with his athleticism. As a result, Arrington has exceptional response time and excels against the run.

BEST PASS RUSHER: Jamir Miller, Browns

He recorded more sacks (13) than any other linebacker in the league last season. This year, the Browns again will allow him to attack upfield on passing downs.

BEST PASS DEFENDER: Chad Brown, Seahawks

He may not be the best pass rusher at his position or have the best cover skills, but he is good at both and, as a result, is disruptive in the passing game.

MOST VERSATILE: Derrick Brooks, Buccaneers

Brooks does an excellent job of making plays against the run with his quickness and can cover most backs and tight ends in the passing game.

passing game. Will take a lot of false steps and gets caught out of position too much. Does not have great change of direction skills and does not appear comfortable making plays in space.

Bottom line: Starter who does not make a lot of big plays. Does an excellent job against the run. **GRADE: 7.8**

T11. Julian Peterson, 49ers

6-3 235 **Age: 24 3rd year**

Strengths: Is a good athlete who has adequate size and impressive straight-line speed. Shows great initial burst off the snap. Can play over the tight end and has the strength to control the point of attack in the running game. Shows the ability to close down the back side and chase down plays.

Weaknesses: Overpursues, tries to do too much and does not always free himself from blocks quickly. Displays inconsistent recognition skills. Was hampered by nagging injuries last season.

Bottom line: Still a somewhat raw starter who excels at attacking the run and rushing the passer. He's an ideal fit for the 49ers' scheme, but there are minor durability concerns about him. **GRADE: 7.8**

T11. Mike Peterson, Colts

6-1 232 **Age: 26 4th year**

Strengths: Can make the big hit. Is relentless in pursuit. Has excellent range in running and passing games. Has good overall ball skills. Often comes up with the big play in coverage.

Weaknesses: Lack of size remains biggest drawback. Wears down during the course of the game. Must improve ability at the point of attack.

Bottom line: Has been an excellent starter throughout his career. New defensive scheme will allow him to fly around the field and make more plays. **GRADE: 7.8**

T16. John Mobley, Broncos

6-1 236 **Age: 28 7th year**

Strengths: Can cover tight ends or running backs in man coverage. Has good range and instincts in the passing game. Is outstanding in pursuit and does a great job of chasing down plays.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal strength and wears down as the game progresses. Needs to improve ability to anchor at the point of attack.

Bottom line: With a year of experience in defensive coordinator Ray Rhodes' system, he should bounce back with a strong season. **GRADE: 7.7**

T16. Bill Romanowski, Raiders

6-4 245 **Age: 36 15th year**

Strengths: Is extremely productive and durable. Is a very intense, physical player who is skilled in all phases of linebacker play. Takes good angles to ball and has a nonstop motor. Is adept in pass coverage, both man-to-man and zone.

Weaknesses: Is less effective when teams run right at him. Has lost some ability to shed blocks.

Bottom line: Will have immediate impact on the Raiders' defense because of his work ethic, intensity and tempo on the strong side. Makes up for any loss of athletic skill by knowing his opponents' strengths and weaknesses. **GRADE: 7.7**

T18. Donnie Edwards, Chargers

6-2 227 **Age: 29 7th year**

Strengths: Has speed, quickness and athletic ability. Excels in space, plays sideline to sideline and has excellent instincts against the pass. Can match up one-on-one with most tight ends on passing plays. Plays with leverage and uses his hands well. Can keep blockers away from his body. Makes plays.

Weaknesses: Is not terrific against the run and has trouble when the play is directed right at him. Will play out of control at times and does not always take proper angles to the quarterback.

Bottom line: Will team up with Junior Seau to give the Chargers a pair of playmaking outside linebackers. **GRADE: 7.6**

T18. Carlos Emmons, Eagles

6-5 250 **Age: 29 7th year**

Strengths: Has good overall bulk and lower-body strength. Gets good initial pop, has the size to take on blockers and does a consistent job of controlling tight ends at the point of attack in the running game. Recognition skills continue to improve and always seems to be around the ball. Has good straight-line speed.

Weaknesses: Does not have great lateral quickness and has some trouble changing directions quickly. Struggles in space and zone coverage at times. Needs to be replaced in the nickel package.

Bottom line: Underrated strongside linebacker who is steady in man coverage and excels at stuffing the run. Will struggle when forced to make plays in space. **GRADE: 7.6**

T18. Jason Gildon, Steelers

6-4 250 **Age: 30 9th year**

Strengths: Is an outstanding upfield player who has excellent size for a 3-4 outside linebacker. Has good athletic ability, plays with leverage and has good feel for blocking angles. Has an excellent first step and is strong holding up at point of attack. Has sideline-to-sideline range; can make backside plays vs. the cutback. Finishes each play. Compiled 12 sacks last season.

Weaknesses: Is not very fluid in man-to-man or zone coverages. Is not the ultimate edge rusher because he lacks blinding speed and explosiveness.

Bottom line: Is a smart, quick player who takes good angles to the ball and makes plays. Cannot afford to lose any speed. Plays with pride and has natural instincts. His feel for the game will supplement any declining skills. **GRADE: 7.6**

T18. Kailee Wong, Texans

6-2 250 **Age: 26 5th year**

Strengths: Has outstanding athletic ability and does a good job of getting upfield quickly. Shows an improved ability to stack and

shed blocks at the point of attack. Plays with good leverage and shows excellent balance. Appears comfortable in space and is a great open field tackler.

Weaknesses: Does not have ideal recognition skills and appears a step slow at times. Will need time to adjust to the new scheme and playing on the outside.

Bottom line: Former inside linebacker who will move outside where he is a better fit. Has the pass-rushing skills to have a breakout season in this 3-4 scheme. **GRADE: 7.6**

T22. Roosevelt Colvin, Bears

6-3 242 **Age: 25 4th year**

Strengths: Shows great versatility, explosiveness and a knack for rushing the passer. Has good straight-line speed, a quick first step and closing quickness. Has a powerful upper body. Shows good rip and club moves and the ability to fight back inside.

Weaknesses: Struggles to change directions in coverage and does not show the ability to turn and run with the receiver. Does not have great recognition skills and takes too many false steps.

Bottom line: Is the Bears' best speed rusher and does a great job against the run but must improve overall instincts and cover skills. **GRADE: 7.5**

T22. Keith Mitchell, Texans

6-2 245 **Age: 28 5th year**

Strengths: Has a great combination of size and speed. Has good burst and acceleration around the corner as an edge rusher. Has the bulk and strength to anchor vs. the run. Can make plays sideline to sideline against the run. Is an outstanding open-field tackler.

Weaknesses: Is a bit of an underachiever. Needs to learn more moves as a pass rusher. Gets in trouble when reached by the offensive tackle. Is average in coverage and much better coming forward than when forced to turn and run. Doesn't have great ball skills.

Bottom line: Is a great fit for the Texans' 3-4 scheme because he's just as effective on the line of scrimmage as he is off. **GRADE: 7.5**

T22. Keith Newman, Bills

6-2 248 **Age: 25 4th year**

Strengths: Has tremendous size and athleticism. Continues to develop strength and has become an excellent run stopper. Can make plays all over the field.

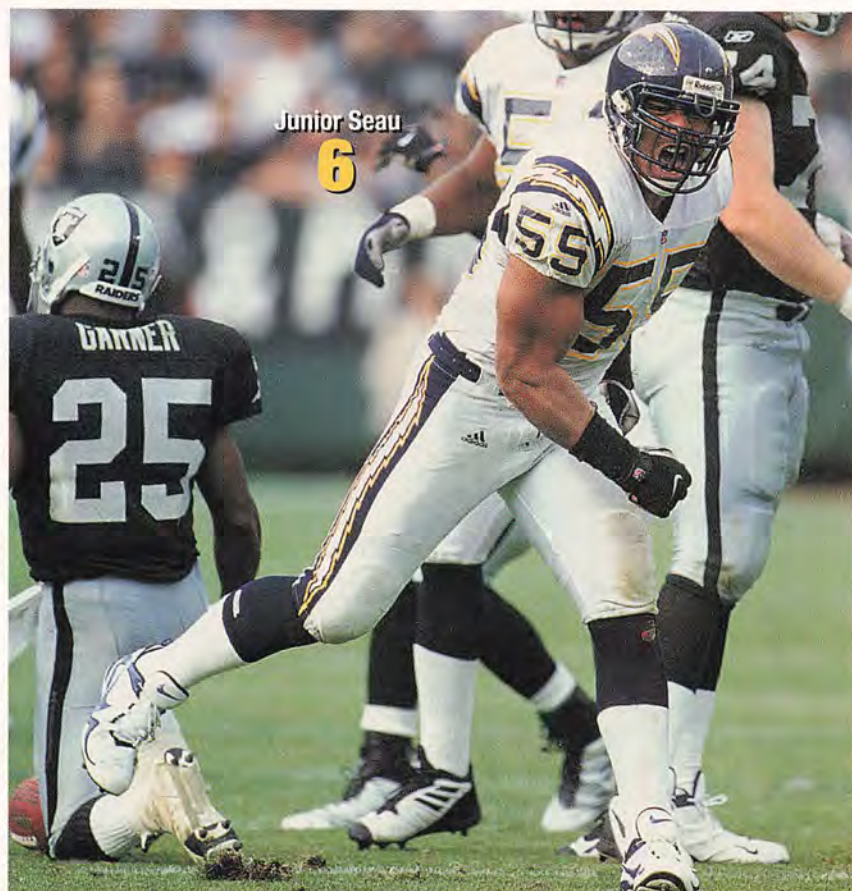
Weaknesses: Has trouble matching up in man-to-man situations, especially against quicker backs. Appears stiff in the hips at times and has trouble turning and running.

Bottom line: Has made big strides and has the size, strength and ability to be considered one of the top young strongside linebackers in the NFL. Should improve with experience. **GRADE: 7.5**

T22. Roman Phifer, Patriots

6-2 248 **Age: 34 10th year**

Strengths: Has a knack for sidestepping blockers and making plays against the run. Plays sideline to sideline and takes good angles to the ball. Is an excellent open-field



Junior Seau
6

tackler. Plays with good leverage. Protects his body well and uses his hands well.

Weaknesses: Will struggle a bit at the point of attack when teams run right at him. Is not effective in the short area near the line of scrimmage. Age is becoming a concern.

Bottom line: Takes great care of his body, knows exactly what coach Bill Belichick wants and will do anything asked of him.

GRADE: 7.5

T26. Sam Cowart, Jets

6-2 245 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Plays with a great motor. Attacks the line of scrimmage in the running game. Makes a lot of plays between the tackles. Can stack and shed blocks quickly at the point of attack. Has good speed and is good working in space. Is an excellent open-field tackler who does a good job of breaking down and wrapping up.

Weaknesses: Durability is a concern. Lacks ideal size and bulk. Gets overwhelmed by bigger offensive linemen in the run game.

Bottom line: Can make plays from sideline to sideline and big plays in the passing game.

GRADE: 7.4

T26. Kevin Hardy, Cowboys

6-4 248 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has rare combination of size, speed and athletic ability. Excels at blitzing the passer and chasing running plays down from behind. Uses hands to fight through blocks and has an exceptional burst to the

ball when he sees a crease. Explodes in and out of cuts.

Weaknesses: Lacks the bulk and lower-body strength to be effective when teams run directly at him. Plays too upright at times. Missed seven games because of a knee injury last season, so durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Has the natural skills to be an effective linebacker, but his potential is limited playing on the strong side.

GRADE: 7.4

T26. Mo Lewis, Jets

6-3 258 Age: 32 12th year

Strengths: Takes great angles to the ball. Stays active along the line of scrimmage. Does a good job using his hands to keep blockers away. Is powerful and rarely misses a tackle. Shows good burst to the quarterback. Excels in pursuit, especially from the backside.

Weaknesses: Starting to slow down. Lacks top strength and struggles when bigger and more physical offensive linemen reach him.

Bottom line: Is solid against the run, has adequate cover skills and always seems to be around the ball, but the Jets should start grooming a replacement.

GRADE: 7.4

T26. Dwayne Rudd, Browns

6-2 237 Age: 26 6th year

Strengths: Is a classic weakside linebacker. Undersized, but with very good athleticism. Has good recognition skills. Does a great job in space. Will chase from sideline to sideline. Has good speed and quickness and great

change of direction skills. Is very fluid in coverage. Can be matched up man-to-man with running backs.

Weaknesses: Has trouble at the point of attack. Lacks great lower body strength and bulk. Gets knocked back too often. Has trouble taking on blockers and does not shed well when reached. Wore down noticeably late last season.

Bottom line: Is a good fit for the Browns' athletic, aggressive system but his lack of size and strength always will be a problem. Needs to play in space to be productive.

GRADE: 7.4

T26. Marcus Washington, Colts

6-3 255 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has good closing speed to the quarterback. Is disruptive in the running and passing games. Can chase down plays. Emerged as a playmaker last season. Can play through pain.

Weaknesses: Is not comfortable making plays in space. Lacks the bulk to hold up at the point of attack. Struggles against a bigger, more physical lead blocker or tight end.

Bottom line: Will not rush the passer as much but should be able to use explosiveness and speed to make big plays against the run and in coverage.

GRADE: 7.4

T31. Rob Fredrickson, Cardinals

6-4 243 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Has toughness and range. Seeks out plays and flows to the ballcarrier. Excels at chasing plays from behind. Works his way through traffic. Is a solid tackler. Has good instincts as a blitzer.

Weaknesses: Has lost a step and lets too many blockers get into his body. Struggles against faster tight ends in man coverage.

Bottom line: Has battled injuries, which has him on the downside. Still counted on heavily, particularly for leadership.

GRADE: 7.3

T31. Warrick Holdman, Bears

6-1 230 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is a good athlete who has decent size. Is quick and agile. Does a good job of breaking down and tackling in space. Shows good short-area burst and power. Can chase down plays.

Weaknesses: Will struggle when teams run right at him. Lacks the ability to stack and shed at the point of attack and occasionally will avoid contact, leaving the defense exposed. Lacks great lower-body strength and bulk.

Bottom line: Will be pushed for playing time by newcomer Mike Caldwell but is younger, knows the scheme better and has more potential.

GRADE: 7.3

T31. Brandon Short, Giants

6-3 255 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Consistently improved last season. Size and strength are good. Plays with decent leverage and has excellent balance. Takes good angles to the ball in coverage. Is adequate as a blitzer.

Weaknesses: Struggles to make plays in space, especially in pass coverage. Does not

TOM HAUCK FOR TSN

show great burst to the ball or closing speed. Takes too many false steps and must improve recognition skills. Lacks ideal change of direction skills and athletic abilities.

Bottom line: Physical run-stuffer who is most comfortable playing close to the line of scrimmage but must improve technique in coverage to be a complete player. **GRADE: 7.3**

T31. Nate Wayne, Packers

6-0 237 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Displays excellent instincts and has good speed and quickness. Has good reaction skills and will take few false steps. Has good initial quickness and closing speed to the ball. Is fluid in coverage and has good change of direction skills.

Weaknesses: Lacks bulk and lower-body strength at point of attack and is average at disengaging blocks. Has had injury problems.

Bottom line: An undersized starter who has excellent range in the running game and has become more of a playmaker in coverage, but he must stay healthy. **GRADE: 7.3**

T35. Shawn Barber, Eagles

6-2 237 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Is an outstanding athlete who is at his best in space. Shows the ability to change directions quickly, open his hips and run with receivers. Can cover most backs. Has good straight-line speed and outstanding lateral movement. Relentless in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Lacks bulk, can't hold his ground at the point of attack and will wear down when teams consistently run at him. Has trouble disengaging from blocks. Missed the majority of last season because of a knee injury.

Bottom line: Is an undersized playmaker who has durability concerns and is adjusting to a new system. If he stays healthy, he has the speed and overall athleticism to excel in the Eagles' scheme. **GRADE: 7.2**

T35. Tommy Polley, Rams

6-3 240 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is extremely active. Is disruptive, makes plays from sideline to sideline and has big-play potential. Is excellent when chasing. Does a good job of causing fumbles with tomahawk moves. Has solid tackling skills.

Weaknesses: Doesn't always take good angles to the ball. Needs to improve recognition skills. Plays too high, has trouble disengaging from blocks and allows offensive linemen to get into his body. Lacks experience in coverage.

Bottom line: Former weakside linebacker who has the frame and athletic ability to make the move to the strong side but must play with better leverage against the run and quickly develop cover skills. **GRADE: 7.2**

T37. Keith Bulluck, Titans

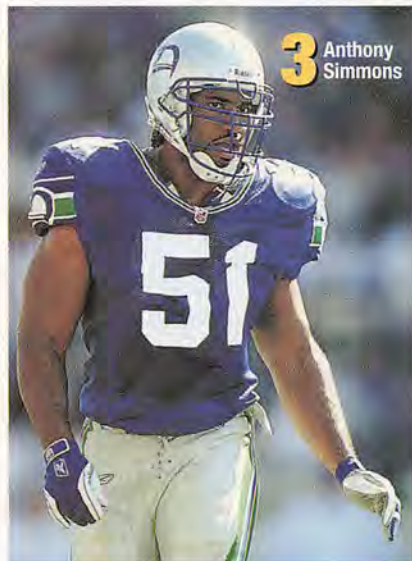
6-3 232 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has exceptional speed. Has the ability to make plays from sideline to sideline. Shows outstanding closing speed and some ability to rush the passer. Plays with

great intensity and a nonstop motor. Has good overall speed.

Weaknesses: Lacks size. Does not have great strength. Does not always take good angles to the ball. Will get overly aggressive at times and get caught out of position as a result.

Bottom line: Should develop into an excellent playmaker on the outside in the running game and passing games. Is expected to take over as the starter on the outside. **GRADE: 7.1**



3 Anthony Simmons

DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

T37. Na'il Diggs, Packers

6-4 238 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Is an outstanding tackler in the open field who can deliver the big hit. Has good quickness and can chase down plays. Uses hands well to fight through traffic in pursuit. Gets good depth on pass drops and has a good feel for coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size to hold up at the point of attack, tries to avoid contact too much and hasn't developed great instincts.

Bottom line: An undersized starter who is a punishing tackler but must add bulk and improve recognition skills. **GRADE: 7.1**

T37. Barrett Green, Lions

6-0 232 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Is a former strong safety who has great range and can run with receivers. Changes direction well. Can chase down plays in the running game. Is a good open-field tackler.

Weaknesses: Lacks bulk and the lower-body strength to hold up at the point of attack in the running game. Has not developed pass-rush moves and cannot turn the corner coming off the edge.

Bottom line: Athletic but undersized starter who excels in pass coverage and rarely misses a tackle. Should continue to improve. **GRADE: 7.1**

T37. Derrick Rodgers, Dolphins

6-1 235 Age: 30 6th year

Strengths: Has good speed and outstanding work ethic. Has excellent instincts and

intelligence. Has the explosiveness to be an effective blitzer. Does not miss many open-field tackles and delivers big hits. Plays with a mean streak and plays much bigger than his size.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal change of direction skills and athletic ability for the weakside position. Does not have much lateral quickness. Is somewhat of a liability in coverage and must be replaced in nickel packages. Has been bothered by nagging injuries and is coming off shoulder surgery.

Bottom line: If healthy, should have another productive season. **GRADE: 7.1**

T37. John Thierry, Falcons

6-4 262 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Shows enough speed and burst to make a difference as an edge rusher. Will make a lot of plays in space and will do a nice job when chasing the run. Has some big-play flair.

Weaknesses: No longer is a solid every-down player. Lacks the bulk and lower-body strength to hold up at point of attack. Tends to give an inconsistent effort.

Bottom line: Has huge durability concerns but is a good fit for the Falcons' 3-4 if he stays healthy. Will play at outside linebacker and also play some rush end in the team's sub-packages. **GRADE: 7.1**

T42. Mike Caldwell, Bears

6-2 237 Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Is an outstanding athlete. Plays with excellent overall instincts. Has good change of direction skills and lateral movement. Shows the ability to cover backs and to turn and run with receivers.

Weaknesses: Gets into trouble when asked to stack too much at the line of scrimmage. Has trouble anchoring at the point of attack and lacks ideal size. Wears down when teams run right at him.

Bottom line: Quality reserve who is outstanding in coverage but not a flashy player or a big playmaker. Will push Warrick Holdman for playing time. **GRADE: 7.0**

T42. Mark Fields, Panthers

6-2 244 Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Has a good combination of size and speed. Shows great burst out of his cuts and has good closing speed. Has good cover skills and some big-play potential.

Weaknesses: Lacks good technique and awareness. Waits too long for the play to develop in front of him. Needs to follow through on assignments.

Bottom line: A player who can do it all physically but will make costly mistakes because of his lack of discipline and inconsistent technique. **GRADE: 7.0**

T42. T.J. Slaughter, Jaguars

6-0 239 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Makes plays and is instinctive. Has a good feel for blocking angles. Closes on the ball quickly and is an excellent open-field tackler.

Weaknesses: Lacks the power to take on a lot of blocks at the point of attack. Is not physical enough to hold up inside against the run.

Bottom line: Has experience playing in the middle and on the weak side. Will be a key cog in the Jaguars' defense. **GRADE: 7.0**

T42. Jeff Ulbrich, 49ers

6-0 249 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has great instincts, is aggressive and plays with great intensity. Will take good angles to the ball in a short area. Has a nice base and explosive burst as a tackler. Plays with adequate leverage, shows good initial pop and displays improved ability to disengage from blocks.

Weaknesses: Appears stiff in coverage and lacks good change of direction skills.

Struggles with quicker receivers out of the backfield and has not developed a good feel for defending against the passing game.

Bottom line: Outside linebacker who plays like an inside linebacker in the 49ers' scheme and has the short-area explosiveness to be productive in the role. Somewhat of a liability in coverage. **GRADE: 7.0**

T42. Mike Vrabel, Patriots

6-4 250 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is aggressive and plays with good leverage. Is a good tackler. Tough player who gives great effort. Shows ability to get through traffic and shed blocks. Has good instincts. Is an effective blitzer.

Weaknesses: Cannot drop into coverage or play in space. Is a liability on third down and in passing situations. Lacks athleticism.

Bottom line: Has become effective in the Patriots' scheme as a read-and-react two-gap linebacker who plays along the line of scrimmage. **GRADE: 7.0**

T47. Glenn Cadrez, Chiefs

6-2 240 Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Has outstanding experience and a feel for the game. Gets in a good position to make plays and doesn't waste a lot of motion. Has versatility to play inside and outside, takes good angles to the ball and shows good intelligence.

Weaknesses: Lacks great speed and athleticism. Is not a very physical player against the running game.

Bottom line: Is a savvy veteran who knows defensive coordinator Greg Robinson's schemes. **GRADE: 6.9**

T47. Don Davis, Rams

6-1 234 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has good change of direction skills. Is at his best in space and is a good open-field tackler. Displays good instincts and recognition skills. Can cover backs out of the backfield.

Weaknesses: Has trouble taking on blockers at the point of attack and lacks bulk. Runs past plays while trying to avoid contact. Suffered a wrist injury last season. Never has been a playmaker in coverage.

Bottom line: Former starter who has good athletic ability but lacks size and explosiveness. Is better suited for a reserve role. **GRADE: 6.9**



DILIP VISHWANATH / TSN

T47. Ian Gold, Broncos

6-0 223 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Gets upfield quickly and shows good initial quickness. Rarely misses a tackle. Shows ability to rush the passer coming off the edge. Coverage skills continue to improve.

Weaknesses: Is undersized. Will struggle to hold ground at the point of attack. Isn't a big hitter. Does not have great recognition skills. Takes too many false steps.

Bottom line: Explosive playmaker whose career is on the upswing. **GRADE: 6.9**

T47. Morlon Greenwood, Dolphins

6-0 242 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is fast and athletic. Can cover a lot of ground. Has the closing burst and quickness to be an effective blitzer. Can deliver the big hit and does a good job wrapping up.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size and doesn't have great recognition skills. Struggled at times last season because of lack of experience but finished strong. Must add bulk and strength.

Bottom line: Performed well last season for a rookie starter and has the explosiveness and athletic ability to develop into a great playmaker. **GRADE: 6.9**

T47. Ryan Phillips, Patriots

6-4 252 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Has excellent size. Shows ability to stack and shed vs. the run. Can contribute in pass coverage. Has enough speed to make plays on the outside.

Weaknesses: Does not make a lot of back-side chase plays. Doesn't make a lot of plays as a blitzer off the edge. Needs to show more explosiveness and big-play ability.

Bottom line: Journeyman who has been given

numerous opportunities to start in the NFL but never has played up to expectations. A depth guy for now. **GRADE: 6.9**

T47. Eddie Robinson, Bills

6-1 243 Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Has good size and quickness. Has a nose for the ball and plays with good leverage. Does a nice job disengaging blocks and getting around traffic. Is strong and has the ability to hold his ground at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks the speed and burst to be a force as a pass rusher from the weak side. Has difficulty covering backs on pass plays.

Bottom line: A run-stuffer who must be replaced in the nickel package because he's a liability in coverage. **GRADE: 6.9**

T47. Darrin Smith, Saints

6-1 230 Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Has excellent run/pass diagnostic skills. Takes good angles to the ball. Is solid in coverage. Shows the ability to turn and run. Has good recognition skills in the passing game.

Weaknesses: Does not have size and strength to match up at the point of attack. Doesn't attack the run. Has lost a step.

Bottom line: Is the leader of the defense. Was more than adequate as a starter the past two seasons. **GRADE: 6.9**

T47. Raynoch Thompson, Cardinals

6-3 217 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Is athletic and quick. Can chase plays down from behind and gives great effort. Has good range in coverage. Can cover most backs in man-to-man situations.

Weaknesses: Has had off-field issues. Lacks size and does not have the bulk or lower-body strength to hold up in traffic.

Bottom line: Has good speed but hasn't made big plays. Best suited to play in nickel and dime packages. **GRADE: 6.9**

T47. Jamie Winborn, 49ers

5-11 242 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Shows the ability to take on and shed blocks. Is extremely active and makes a lot of plays because of quickness and change of direction skills. Is a natural blitzer who has good upfield skills. Displays improved recognition skills and has great range.

Weaknesses: Doesn't always wrap up and will miss some tackles because of taking poor angles to the ball. Still inexperienced in coverage.

Bottom line: Is a reserve who is raw but has excellent athletic ability. Should continue to improve. **GRADE: 6.9**

T56. Gerald Dixon, Raiders

6-3 250 Age: 33 10th year

Strengths: Has good instincts and intelligence. Shows little wasted motion, takes good angles to the ball and is at his best when reading and reacting at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Lacks athletic ability and speed. Is not great at defending the pass or rushing

the passer. Has trouble avoiding blocks because of lack of quickness.

Bottom line: Is limited athletically but still can make plays because of above-average instincts and intelligence. **GRADE: 6.8**

T56. Dhani Jones, Giants

6-1 240 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Improved significantly last season. Is relentless. Has the right amount of bulk and good range in pass coverage. Shows a quick first step and good closing speed to the ball. Is intelligent.

Weaknesses: Makes a lot of mistakes in pass coverage. Lacks recognition skills. Struggles to disengage blocks and make plays.

Bottom line: Can play on the inside or outside and should improve with experience, but is likely to struggle early as a starter. **GRADE: 6.8**

T56. Mark Simoneau, Falcons

6-0 234 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has tremendous agility and quickness. Is extremely active and does a nice job in space. Shows good instincts as an inside rusher.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve his change of direction ability and body control. Struggles at point of attack or when matched up close to the line of scrimmage vs. the inside run. Needs to play with better leverage. Is not much of a threat to push the pocket.

Bottom line: Is undersized but athletic and active. Will have a chance to play outside or inside, and could become a great fit as an inside linebacker. **GRADE: 6.8**

T56. Markus Steele, Cowboys

6-3 240 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent size, great speed and good overall athleticism. Makes a lot of plays in pursuit. Is physical at the point of attack and shows the ability to hold up in one-on-one battles. Can cover running backs and tight ends.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent and inexperienced. Takes too many false steps and poor angles to the ball. Has poor instincts and recognition skills.

Bottom line: Has great natural skills but needs time to develop. **GRADE: 6.8**

T60. Lew Bush, Chiefs

6-2 247 Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Has some short-area power and explosiveness. An instinctive player who rarely is caught out of position.

Weaknesses: Is not an outside threat. Lacks great range and speed. Is not a great pass rusher or blitzer. Injuries have taken their toll, and durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Is a starter on a linebacking corps that has experience but lacks speed and big-play abilities. **GRADE: 6.7**

T60. Patrick Chukwurah, Vikings

6-1 238 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to play end. Shows an explosive first step and does a good job of attacking the line of scrimmage. Has

good strength and shows ability to deliver the big hit.

Weaknesses: Does not show great intelligence and gets caught out of position too often. Needs to play with more discipline. Lacks ideal speed and will struggle to turn and run with a back or tight end.

Bottom line: First-year starter who played some end last season and is likely to struggle early. Has the potential to develop into an effective run stopper and explosive pass rusher. **GRADE: 6.7**

T60. Greg Favors, Colts

6-1 244 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Is at his best making plays in space. Rarely misses a tackle he should make. Attacks the line of scrimmage in the running game. Does an adequate job in coverage.

Weaknesses: Tends to get caught out of position. Is a step slow at times. Struggles against physical tight ends.

Bottom line: Brings much-needed depth to the linebacker corps. Is not dominant in any area but generally finds a way to get the job done. **GRADE: 6.7**

T60. Clark Haggans, Steelers

6-1 251 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is the top outside linebacker in the backup rotation. Has natural pass-rush skills and a good combination of size and speed. Has impressive range and ability to play in space. Is at his best on the move; utilizes good change of direction skills and instincts. Anchors at point of attack vs. the run with good base and leverage. Is a good open-field tackler and excellent blitzer because of his speed and quickness.

Weaknesses: Still is developing. Lacks overall production. Does not always diagnose play well or use hands appropriately. Lacks consistency.

Bottom line: Has a strong upside but needs repetitions and experience. Should be an effective special teams player. **GRADE: 6.7**

T60. Lemanski Hall, Vikings

6-0 235 Age: 31 8th year

Strengths: Displays good instincts and is consistently around the ball. Attacks the line of scrimmage with great power and intensity. Has good recognition skills. Shows the ability to hold up at point of attack and disengage blocks quickly.

Weaknesses: Has marginal overall athletic ability and lacks the speed to make plays from sideline to sideline. Moves from the strong side to weak side and will need time to adjust.

Bottom line: Is adequate against the run and pass but lacks ideal speed and will be pushed for playing time by rookie Raonall Smith. **GRADE: 6.7**

T60. Sedrick Hodge, Saints

6-4 244 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent speed and good leaping ability. Starts and stops quickly. Has the speed to chase down plays. Shows potential as a pass rusher.

Weaknesses: Must improve overall strength. Lacks ability to take on blockers in the running game. Does not have great power at the point of attack. Has poor recognition skills.

Bottom line: Has more potential and experience as a pass rusher than in coverage. Shows physical skills to develop into a quality starter with experience. **GRADE: 6.7**

T60. Brad Jackson, Panthers

6-0 230 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Has excellent change of direction skills and is at his best in space. Is a good open-field tackler. Shows the ability to break down in space and wrap up.

Weaknesses: Lacks size. Does not have great strength. Needs to improve ability to shed blockers. Struggles vs. the run and tends to wear down.

Bottom line: Is a good special teams player and a versatile backup who can play on the strong side or in the middle. **GRADE: 6.7**

T60. Hannibal Navies, Panthers

6-2 240 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has a great combination of size and speed. Shows ability to chase down plays. Shows good power as a tackler and can tackle in the open field.

Weaknesses: Loses power at point of attack. Does not show great hands. Needs to improve recognition skills. Does not have great instincts or quick reaction skills.

Bottom line: Has improved every year and could become a solid starter if he stays healthy. **GRADE: 6.7**

T60. Adrian Ross, Bengals

6-2 256 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has good upper-body strength and does a nice job using hands to fight through traffic. Is at his best when attacking upfield and making plays behind the line of scrimmage. Flashes some ability to rush the passer.

Weaknesses: Plays too high and will struggle to hold ground in the running game once engaged. Will get knocked off balance upon initial contact. Lacks diagnostic skills. Does not appear comfortable making plays in space.

Bottom line: Is versatile enough to play on the inside or outside. Reserve who will play with great intensity. **GRADE: 6.7**

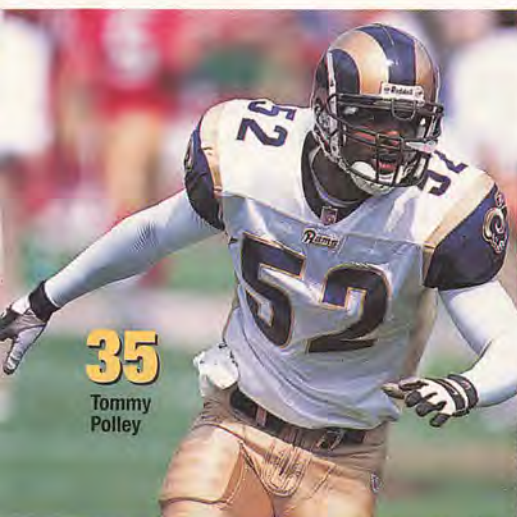
T60. Alshermund Singleton, Bucs

6-2 228 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is quick and fast. Plays with good leverage. Makes few mental mistakes. Is tough to shake in the open. Has a knack for making big plays.

Weaknesses: Undersized and lacks strength. Has trouble dealing with lead blockers at the point of attack. Tends to get caught in traffic. Is a significant liability against the run.

Bottom line: Is fundamentally sound but inexperienced. Has one start in previous five seasons but will be the starter on the strong side. **GRADE: 6.7**



35

Tommy Polley

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

T60. Armegis Spearman, Bengals

6-1 258 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has outstanding athletic ability and quickness. Is young and should improve. Plays with a nonstop motor and does a good job of locating the ball quickly. Shows the ability to make the big hit.

Weaknesses: Appears lost in the passing game, takes too many false steps and will get caught out of position at times. Does not show the ability to cover the back out of the backfield.

Bottom line: Is a excellent reserve who has the potential to be a starter after he gains experience. **GRADE: 6.7**

T71. Jim Nelson, Vikings

6-1 234 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Is physical and plays with great intensity. Is relentless in pursuit and always is working to get to the ball. Does a good job of taking on blocks with hands and disengaging on the move.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have ideal athletic ability or speed to play on the outside. Needs to add bulk. Will struggle to turn and run with the back out of the backfield.

Bottom line: Reserve who is better suited to play on the inside if he adds weight. Would struggle if forced into the starting lineup; his main contribution will come on special teams. **GRADE: 6.6**

T71. Adalius Thomas, Ravens

6-2 270 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good pass-rush skills. Has good quickness and gets good one-gap penetration vs. slower offensive tackles. Is excellent in space. Changes direction well in the open field. Takes good angles to the ball.

Weaknesses: Does not hold up well at the point of attack. Is not a physical player. Has problems shedding blocks. Must improve ability to recognize run and pass plays from the snap.

Bottom line: Will pressure the quarterback and make athletic plays from sideline to sideline. Should benefit greatly from the new 3-4 scheme. **GRADE: 6.6**

T73. Eric Barton, Raiders

6-2 240 Age: 24 4th year

Strengths: Has good overall skills—impressive size, speed and athleticism. Can play inside and outside. Is a solid tackler and big hitter.

Weaknesses: Has been slowed by nagging injuries and inconsistent play. Lacks great range and the athletic ability in space.

Bottom line: Is a career backup who is expected to replace retired William Thomas at the starter on the weak side. **GRADE: 6.5**

T73. Danny Clark, Jaguars

6-2 240 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is a good athlete and is showing steady improvement. Plays with good leverage and uses hands well. Is an excellent tackler and is strong.

Weaknesses: Does not always see blocks coming. Does not take great angles to the ball. Does not make the plays someone with his athletic ability should.

Bottom line: Is a starter who should continue to improve. **GRADE: 6.5**

T73. Jeff Gooch, Lions

5-11 225 Age: 27 7th year

Strengths: Displays excellent recognition skills and instincts. Uses sound technique and rarely is out of position.

Weaknesses: Lacks size against the run and the athleticism to run with quicker receivers.

Bottom line: Versatile veteran who is a solid reserve because of intelligence and experience. Lacks lower-body strength and quickness. **GRADE: 6.5**

T73. Mike Maslowski, Chiefs

6-1 243 Age: 28 4th year

Strengths: Shows good toughness and short-area skills. Is more of a mauler than a technician. Has decent short-area quickness and will step up and fill the hole. Is physical and a punishing tackler.

Weaknesses: Lacks range and athleticism. Looks a little stiff when isolated. Is a liability in coverage situations. Injuries are taking their toll.

Bottom line: Is a starter who will use experience to get into position. Lack of athleticism hurts his coverage skills. **GRADE: 6.5**

T73. Antonio Pierce, Redskins

6-1 232 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Showed improved instincts and technique as the season progressed last year. Has good speed and athletic ability. Can open his hips and run with the receiver. Shows good burst to the ball and great range in zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Does not play with a good base and has not learned to use his hands to disengage blocks.

Bottom line: Is solid in coverage but must add bulk and improve ability to stack and shed blocks. Still is raw. **GRADE: 6.5**

T73. Peter Sirmon, Titans

6-2 246 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Shows ability to make plays in

space. Has the strength to hold up at the point of attack in the short area. Is a reliable tackler who does a good job of wrapping up in the open field.

Weaknesses: Has had problems staying healthy. Lacks ideal size. Does not have great speed or range. Lacks big-play abilities.

Bottom line: If healthy, should develop into an effective starter. **GRADE: 6.5**

T79. Larry Atkins, Chiefs

6-3 243 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Is an outstanding athlete who has good overall speed and size. Likes to mix it up, will step up and fill the hole and usually takes good angles to the ball.

Weaknesses: Is a classic 'tweener—too small to play outside linebacker but too stiff and lacking range to play safety. Struggles in pass coverage situations.

Bottom line: Reserve who could fit in nickel packages as a sub linebacker. Will get most time on special teams. **GRADE: 6.4**

T79. Orantes Grant, Cowboys

6-0 230 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Is a consistent tackler—and special teams contributor—who wraps up in the open field and covers a lot of ground.

Weaknesses: Missed time last season because of an ankle injury, so durability is a concern. Plays out of control and appears lost at times. Lacks ideal strength and bulk to stack and shed blocks on running plays.

Bottom line: Needs to start translating potential into production to play a bigger role on the Cowboys' defense. **GRADE: 6.4**

T79. Greg Jones, Texans

6-4 248 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Possesses impressive size and strength and holds up well at the point of attack. Has some upfield skills and shows an adequate first step.

Weaknesses: Lacks range, does not make a lot of big plays and lacks great explosiveness. Is not an overly instinctive player and does not have great recognition skills.

Bottom line: Might be a great fit on this defense as a pass-rushing linebacker but must start to produce. **GRADE: 6.4**

T79. Clint Kriewaldt, Lions

6-1 236 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has speed and power. Chases down plays and is a good tackler.

Weaknesses: Lacks enough lower-body strength to hold his ground at the point of attack. Struggles to shed blockers. Is raw in coverage and must develop recognition skills.

Bottom line: Is inexperienced and undersized, yet versatile. Provides depth at linebacker but makes primary contributions on special teams. Likely would struggle if forced into a starting role. **GRADE: 6.4**

T79. Ike Reese, Eagles

6-2 222 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Is an aggressive upfield player. Displays an excellent work ethic. Excels at

chasing down plays and is relentless in pursuit. Shows adequate speed.

Weaknesses: Is unable to stack at the line of scrimmage and does not have the frame to add bulk. Gets knocked off his feet far too often.

Bottom line: Lacks the size to develop into a starter but provides depth and is outstanding on special teams. **GRADE: 6.4**

T79. Sam Rogers, Chargers

6-3 245 Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: A physical player who has good strength at point of attack. Uses hands well and plays with balance and leverage. Reads and reacts well, and can stack and shed. Has a good feel for pass-defense schemes and puts himself in position. Is a solid tackler who makes few mistakes.

Weaknesses: Doesn't make many big plays. Can't cover a tight end man-to-man. Doesn't have a lot of range.

Bottom line: A former Bills starter who will provide a nice changeup from Junior Seau and Donnie Edwards. **GRADE: 6.4**

T79. Eric Westmoreland, Jaguars

6-0 234 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Is active and plays sideline to sideline. Is at his best when he has a clear path to the ball. Chases down a lot of plays. Has the ability to drop in coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks size, especially height. Does not take great angles to the ball. Gets caught out of position at times. Lacks ability to read and react. Is not consistent.

Bottom line: Special teams player. **GRADE: 6.4**

T86. James Darling, Jets

6-0 250 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Plays with a strong base and can deliver the big hit. Has good straight-line speed. Shows some ability to blitz the passer. **Weaknesses:** Struggles to locate the ballcarrier at times. Must play with better leverage. Doesn't make a lot of big plays.

Bottom line: Can play the run and has starting experience. Is capable of filling in for a short period. **GRADE: 6.3**

T86. Eddie Mason, Redskins

6-0 236 Age: 30 6th year

Strengths: Shows good instincts and has excellent speed. Does a great job chasing down running plays. Has flashed upfield rush ability.

Weaknesses: Is undersized. Needs to play with a bigger base and struggles to anchor against the run. Has a difficult time disengaging blocks. Has no real developmental qualities.

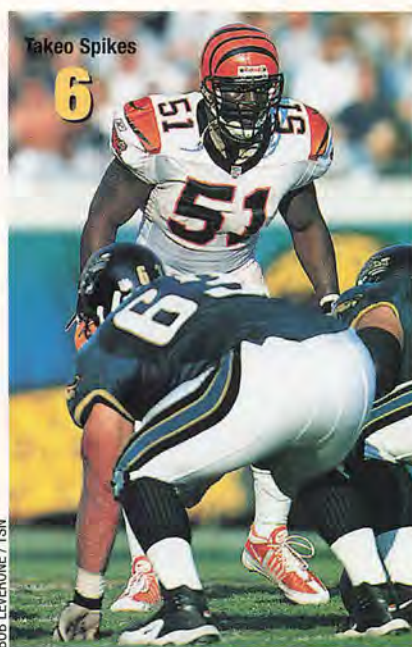
Bottom line: Standout special teams player and reserve who lacks the bulk and athleticism to hold up as a starter over an extended period. **GRADE: 6.3**

T86. Zeke Moreno, Chargers

6-2 246 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and toughness. Is an aggressive run defender who attacks the line of scrimmage.

Weaknesses: Is a liability in man-to-man coverage. Lacks the speed to turn and run



with backs or tight ends. Has trouble diagnosing plays, doesn't show much athletic ability in the open field and misses too many tackles.

Bottom line: Must become a more instinctual player before he'll provide much as a linebacker. In the meantime, he'll contribute on special teams. **GRADE: 6.3**

T86. Twan Russell, Dolphins

6-1 230 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Is an outstanding special teams contributor. Rarely misses tackles. Has shown marked improvement in instincts and recognition skills. Is active and has a great motor. Gets good drops in zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Has had problems staying healthy. Lacks explosiveness to the ball and is not an effective blitzer. Lacks bulk.

Bottom line: Needs experience but might not get it playing behind Morlon Greenwood. Main contributions will come on special teams. **GRADE: 6.3**

T90. Anthony Denman, Browns

6-1 234 Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Can get upfield and plug holes. Has excellent diagnostic skills. Will get through trash in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Has a poor feel for pass coverage. His skills are very raw.

Bottom line: A reserve who will get most of his playing time on special teams. **GRADE: 6.2**

T90. N.D. Kalu, Eagles

6-3 265 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Shows good natural speed, burst off the edge and closing speed on the quarterback.

Weaknesses: Lacks bulk and strength. Hasn't shown the ability to anchor against the run and tends to wear down quickly when teams run directly at him.

Bottom line: A former end who is making the transition to outside linebacker as a situational pass rusher in an aggressive blitzing

scheme. Needs to develop technique significantly to have an impact. **GRADE: 6.2**

T90. Travian Smith, Raiders

6-4 240 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Is big and athletic and can cover a lot of ground because of his speed. Is a productive special teams cover guy.

Weaknesses: Lacks instincts and feel for the strongside position. Cannot diagnose plays or read and react. Plays at slower than natural speed. Struggles to get off blocks.

Bottom line: Is best suited to be a third-down rusher off the edge from the end or linebacker spot in blitz situations. **GRADE: 6.2**

T90. Shannon Taylor, Ravens

6-3 247 Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Is a good athlete who can chase down plays. Contributes in pass-rush situations. Gives good effort. Contributes on special teams.

Weaknesses: Is not physical. Is a liability against the run. Cannot hold up at point of attack. Lacks great athletic ability.

Bottom line: Best suited as No. 4 or No. 5 outside linebacker and special teams contributor but is needed as a reserve. New scheme fits his abilities better than the nickel 4-3. **GRADE: 6.2**

T94. Marcus Bell, Seahawks

6-1 240 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has a good combination of size and speed. Can be a powerful tackler. Shows good initial burst off the edge and accelerates well.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal bulk and strength. Tends to be mechanical. Needs to improve his coverage skills. Doesn't diagnose plays well and lacks technique. Has had problems staying healthy.

Bottom line: Has the physical tools to become a starter but for now is a backup in the Seahawks' base package. **GRADE: 6.1**

T94. Scott Galyon, Dolphins

6-2 238 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has premier instincts and recognition skills. Covers a lot of ground. Has good quickness. Plays with a nonstop motor and is relentless in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Has had problems staying healthy. Lacks ideal bulk and strength. Is not an effective blitzer despite his speed.

Bottom line: Quality reserve who provides excellent depth. Can get the job done over a short period but likely would struggle if forced into a starting role. **GRADE: 6.1**

T96. Orlando Huff, Seahawks

6-2 246 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. A hard worker who is versatile enough to play inside or outside. Tough at the point of attack. Has impressive lower-body strength and plays with leverage.

Weaknesses: Tends to struggle in space. Has poor recognition skills. Has only marginal speed and quickness and must improve coverage skills. Lacks good instincts.

Bottom line: Could develop into a solid

backup within a year, but he must improve his overall recognition and reaction skills.

GRADE: 6.0

T96. Justin Kurpeikis, Steelers

6-3 254 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Is an athletic player who has better game speed than 40 time would indicate. Covers ground well and gets through traffic, which enables him to make plays in space and avoid blocks. Is a good open-field tackler who shows flash as upfield rusher with some suddenness and quickness off ball.

Weaknesses: Is not very strong against a physical run blocker at point of attack.

Bottom line: Has decent skills and still is developing as a player. **GRADE: 6.0**

T96. Sekou Sanyika, Cardinals

6-3 246 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has nice pass-rushing moves and can be disruptive behind the line of scrimmage. Shows good lateral movement.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size, bulk to match up against offensive tackles because he has trouble freeing himself from blocks. Must learn to use his hands better.

Bottom line: A developmental player who has upside as a situational outside rusher. Lack of size and strength prevents him from becoming an every-down player. **GRADE: 6.0**

T96. Maugaula Tuitele, Patriots

6-2 255 Age: 24 1st year

Strengths: Has excellent size and strength. Is a powerful tackler. Is most effective in a short area and is difficult to overpower. Goes all-out all the time. Shows ability to contribute in pass coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks good technique. Will miss tackles trying for the big hit. Takes too many false steps. Has trouble getting off blocks. Tends to wear down late in games.

Bottom line: After playing in NFL Europe last spring, he should contribute on special teams for New England this fall. **GRADE: 6.0**

T100. Elijah Alexander, free agent

6-2 235 Age: 32 9th year

Started for Oakland in 2001, but skills are declining. No longer attacks the line of scrimmage and strictly is a depth player. **GRADE: 5.9**

T100. Jason Glenn, Jets

6-0 231 Age: 23 2nd year

A hard-nosed, intense developmental player. Has good speed and quickness but needs experience and added bulk before he can make a big contribution. **GRADE: 5.9**

T100. Darren Hambrick, free agent

6-2 227 Age: 27 4th year

Former starter in Dallas and Carolina who does not possess great speed or athleticism but has excellent instincts and ball skills. **GRADE: 5.9**

T100. Rob Holmberg, Packers

6-3 240 Age: 31 9th year

A journeyman reserve who lacks ideal speed and size but is relentless, has excellent recognition skills and is physical against the run. **GRADE: 5.9**

T100. Deon Humphrey, Chargers

6-3 240 Age: 26 3rd year

Is a decent athlete who can cover a lot of

ground. Has not developed or progressed as quickly as Chargers hoped. Has potential but is merely a special teams player. **GRADE: 5.9**

T100. Andre O'Neal, Vikings

6-1 235 Age: 26 3rd year

Reserve who has adequate size, good speed and good athletic ability. Lacks the experience and recognition skills of a great backup and will make main contribution on special teams. **GRADE: 5.9**

T100. Jeff Posey, Texans

6-4 249 Age: 27 5th year

Impressive athlete who should produce more. Will be asked to be an upfield attack edge rusher and must produce in a reserve role. **GRADE: 5.9**

T100. Chris Slade, free agent

6-5 245 Age: 31 8th year

Ex-Patriot who was cut by Panthers in offseason. Is at best a nickel pass rusher. **GRADE: 5.9**

T100. Edward Thomas, Jaguars

6-1 229 Age: 27 3rd year

Has decent athletic ability. Played a little better than expected in first two seasons in Jacksonville. Is an adequate backup. **GRADE: 5.9**

T109. Donte Curry, Redskins

6-1 226 Age: 24 1st year

Former college strong safety who has bounced around the league and must improve recognition skills and instincts but runs well and shows good athletic ability. **GRADE: 5.8**

T109. Riall Johnson, Bengals

6-3 243 Age: 24 2nd year

Quality special teams contributor and adequate reserve who has a great combination of speed and size. Will not make a significant impact on defense until recognition skills improve. **GRADE: 5.8**

T109. Mike Jones, Raiders

6-1 247 Age: 33 12th year

Veteran reserve who will not make much of a contribution on defense and would struggle if forced into the starting lineup but is a reliable tackler and quality special teams contributor. **GRADE: 5.8**

T109. Paris Lenon, Packers

6-2 232 Age: 24 1st year

Is undersized and plays too high at times. Lacks great speed but is an explosive tackler who plays with a mean streak. **GRADE: 5.8**

T109. Kevin Lewis, Giants

6-1 230 Age: 23 3rd year

Backup on the weak side who has good speed and contributes on special teams. Must improve recognition skills before playing a bigger role on defense. **GRADE: 5.8**

T109. Kory Minor, Panthers

6-1 247 Age: 25 3rd year

Athletic player who has adequate bulk and upper-body strength, but production never has reached potential. Contributes on special teams and showed signs of improvement last season. **GRADE: 5.8**

T109. DaShon Polk, Bills

6-2 240 Age: 25 3rd year

An adequate backup who has great lateral mobility and excellent burst. If something were to happen to starter Keith Newman, Polk's inability to defend the run would show. **GRADE: 5.8**

T109. Tim Terry, Seahawks

6-2 243 Age: 28 4th year

A tough player who is somewhat of an overachiever. Has minimal upside and never will develop into a starter but has done a nice job as a pass rusher in the Seahawks' nickel package. **GRADE: 5.8**

T109. Joe Wesley, Jaguars

6-1 240 Age: 25 3rd year

Has decent range, but teams can run right at him and take him out of plays. Does not make enough big plays or show great instincts. **GRADE: 5.8**

T109. Antonio Wilson, Vikings

6-2 247 Age: 24 3rd year

Has speed and athletic ability and shows flashes in space but does not consistently hold ground at the point of attack vs. the run. **GRADE: 5.8**

T109. Lee Woodall, free agent

6-1 230 Age: 32 8th year

Was productive earlier in his career but now lacks the footwork, quickness and range to be an effective starter. **GRADE: 5.8**

T120. O.J. Brigance, free agent

6-0 236 Age: 32 4th year

Undersized ex-Ram who has prolonged his career as a special teams contributor. Does not provide quality depth at linebacker. **GRADE: 5.7**

T120. Jack Golden, Buccaneers

6-1 240 Age: 25 3rd year

Is a valuable backup because of his versatility. Is inexperienced but has plenty of upside. Must contribute on special teams. **GRADE: 5.7**

T120. Terry Killens, Broncos

6-1 235 Age: 28 7th year

A career backup who has quickness and athleticism but someone whose talent can best be described as adequate. Would struggle if was forced into the starting lineup. Biggest contributions come on special teams. **GRADE: 5.7**

T120. Scott Kowalkowski, free agent

6-2 220 Age: 34 11th year

Undersized space player who has made career on special teams, but now his contributions in the kicking game are marginal. **GRADE: 5.7**

T120. Barry Minter, free agent

6-2 250 Age: 32 9th year

Career backup who has been around the league and is instinctive and a decent special teams contributor but can't put it together at linebacker. **GRADE: 5.7**

T120. Tarek Saleh, free agent

6-0 240 Age: 27 5th year

Former college pass rusher who has not progressed as expected. Never has made the adjustment to the position change. **GRADE: 5.7**

T120. Brian Williams, free agent

6-1 257 Age: 29 7th year

Journeyman who is extremely competitive and plays with great intensity, but injuries have taken their toll and durability is a major concern. **GRADE: 5.7**

T127. Phil Clarke, free agent

6-0 241 Age: 25 3rd year

Reserve who lacks great size and speed but is a try-hard player who can help on special teams. Plays with a tremendous motor. **GRADE: 5.6**

T127. Fred Jones, Bills

6-2 246 Age: 24 3rd year

Is looking for a role and must make his mark on special teams. Lacks speed and the ability to play in space. **GRADE: 5.6**

T127. Zack Walz, free agent

6-4 229 Age: 26 4th year

Has had a hard time staying healthy, is not athletic enough to play in space and not strong enough to play at the point of attack. **GRADE: 5.6**

T127. Clayton White, Giants

5-11 225 Age: 24 2nd year

Developmental player who is fairly athletic and has

adequate speed but doesn't make many plays, even on special teams. **GRADE: 5.6**

T127. K.D. Williams, free agent

6-0 245 Age: 29 3rd year
Aging ex-Packer who has durability and injury concerns. No longer is an effective special teams contributor. **GRADE: 5.6**

T127. LeVar Woods, Cardinals

6-2 241 Age: 24 2nd year
Backup who has struggled to find a role as a perimeter player but is active and productive on special teams. **GRADE: 5.6**

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Napoleon Harris, Raiders

6-3 253 Northwestern, 1st round
Strengths: Is a tremendous athlete who has excellent size, speed and range. Plays tough at the point of attack vs. the run. Is excellent in space.

Weaknesses: Has poor run/pass recognition skills and does not show great instincts in the open field. Will need time to adjust to dropping in coverage.

Bottom line: Was best outside linebacker in 2002 draft. Raiders probably will use him as upfield pass-rush linebacker and slowly expand his pass-defense responsibilities. Expected to mature quickly. **GRADE: 9.2**

2. LeVar Fisher, Cardinals

6-1 228 NC State, 2nd round
Strengths: Has excellent speed and quickness. Changes direction well.

Weaknesses: Struggles taking on blocks, and a lack of size is a concern. Hesitant in play-action situations.

Bottom line: Can play the weak side, where he won't have to take on as many blocks. Should thrive on special teams and as a situational pass rusher. **GRADE: 8.9**

3. Robert Thomas, Rams

6-0 229 UCLA, 1st round
Strengths: Uses hands well to fight through traffic and shows good instincts. Covers a lot of ground and shows impressive acceleration to the ball. Does a nice job of reading keys and staying disciplined. Shows the change of direction skills to cover most backs.

Weaknesses: Struggles to shed blocks. Lacks the size and strength to hold up consistently at the point of attack.

Bottom line: Former college middle linebacker who is moving to the weak side, which is the playmaking position in the Rams' cover 2 scheme. Has the quickness and athletic ability to excel in that role. **GRADE: 8.7**

4. Saleem Rasheed, 49ers

6-2 229 Alabama, 3rd round
Strengths: Shows adequate ability to diagnose plays and doesn't take a lot of false steps. Shows the ability to make plays from sideline to sideline. Gets deep drops and has

great range in coverage. Can cover most tight ends and backs in man coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks the lower-body strength to hold ground at the point of attack. Tends to overpursue on play fakes.

Bottom line: Is an athletic, fast and aggressive player who immediately improves the 49ers' depth at the position. Should challenge for a starting job by his second season. **GRADE: 8.6**

5. Ben Taylor, Browns

6-2 236 Virginia Tech, 4th round
Shows good run/pass recognition skills. Has trouble holding his ground at the point of attack; often will run around blocks instead of taking them on. Will give everything he has, but his lack of size and bulk limits his potential. **GRADE: 7.5**

6. Ben Leber, Chargers

6-3 244 Kansas State, 3rd round
Is physical and uses excellent techniques. Gets off blocks and makes plays at line of scrimmage. Doesn't have great speed. Never will be a great cover linebacker or a sideline to sideline player. **GRADE: 7.3**

7. Raonall Smith, Vikings

6-2 244 Washington State, 2nd round
Has the speed, size and athletic ability to push for a starting role. Will have to pick up the defense quickly, show improved recognition skills and show an improved ability to shed blocks in the running game to be effective. **GRADE: 6.8**

8. James Allen, Saints

6-2 240 Oregon State, 3rd round
Has speed, athleticism and coverage skills, but a lack of size, a history of back problems and a finesse style are concerns. Should contribute on special teams; is a good fit for the coverage units because of his size and speed. **GRADE: 6.7**

9. Akin Ayodele, Jaguars

6-2 257 Purdue, 3rd round
Has an explosive first step and excellent quickness. Must work on keeping separation from big offensive tackles. Will open season as Jaguars' backup strongside linebacker but has a shot at starting job. **GRADE: 6.6**

10. Rocky Calmus, Titans

6-3 243 Oklahoma, 3rd round
Does not have the speed or cover skills of an outside linebacker or the strength of an inside linebacker. Will add depth on the outside this year and make his biggest contribution on special teams. **GRADE: 6.5**

11. Kevin Bentley, Browns

6-0 243 Northwestern, 4th round
Doesn't have great athleticism but has a terrific work ethic and outstanding instincts. Could have trouble adjusting to the size and speed of the NFL, but has the potential to be a playmaker. Will contribute right away on special teams. **GRADE: 6.2**

12. Will Witherspoon, Panthers

6-1 231 Georgia, 3rd round
An athletic, productive, instinctual player whose size is a concern. Good potential to develop into a starting weakside linebacker. Should contribute right away on special teams and could push for a starting job in a year or two. **GRADE: 6.0**

T13. Rocky Boiman, Titans

6-4 242 Notre Dame, 4th round
Will provide depth while making his biggest contribution on special teams. Shows good work ethic and should improve his technique with time. **GRADE: 5.5**

but on special teams. Shows good work ethic and should improve his technique with time. **GRADE: 5.5**

T13. Nick Rogers, Vikings

6-2 251 Georgia Tech, 5th round
One of several undersized edge-rush specialists in this class. Sliding to linebacker will limit his pass-rushing skills, but he is too undersized to play every down at end. **GRADE: 5.5**

15. David Thornton, Colts

6-2 236 North Carolina, 4th round
Developmental player who has the instincts and athleticism to develop into an effective backup. **GRADE: 5.0**

16. Algie Atkinson, Packers

6-5 252 Kansas, undrafted free agent
Has a good combination of size and speed but must play with better leverage and improve his recognition skills. **GRADE: 4.6**

17. Courtland Bullard, Rams

6-3 234 Ohio State, 5th round
Developmental weakside linebacker who has the speed and athleticism to pursue the run and stay with backs in coverage. Lacks size, strength and instincts. **GRADE: 3.8**

18. Scott Fujita, Chiefs

6-5 248 California, 5th round
Never stops hustling and chases down a lot of plays from the backside, but in terms of athleticism, speed, lower-body strength and power, he comes up short. **GRADE: 3.7**

T19. Bryan Knight, Bears

6-2 240 Pittsburgh, 5th round
An explosive edge rusher with great quickness and speed. Will back up Rosevelt Colvin, who moves to end in the Bears' nickel package. **GRADE: 3.0**

T19. Wesly Mallard, Giants

6-1 221 Oregon, 6th round
Durability problems. Must add bulk or improve coverage skills and move to safety. Excellent change-of-direction abilities and speed. **GRADE: 3.0**

T19. Quincy Monk, Giants

6-3 250 North Carolina, 7th round
Playmaker who has significant special teams potential and should develop into an effective reserve but is raw. **GRADE: 3.0**

T19. Brandon Moore, 49ers

6-1 235 Oklahoma, undrafted free agent
There are concerns about his durability, but he is a tremendous athlete and can be explosive as a pass rusher. **GRADE: 3.0**

T19. Will Overstreet, Falcons

6-2 259 Tennessee, 3rd round
Is a bit overrated in terms of his natural skills, but he seems to make things happen with hustle, intelligence and technique. Will play as a rush linebacker in the Falcons' 3-4 scheme. **GRADE: 3.0**

T19. Maurice Rodriguez, Chiefs

6-1 237 Fresno State, 7th round
Looks explosive enough to contribute as a situational edge rusher. Lacks the base, bulk and leverage to take on blocks and consistently succeed against the run. **GRADE: 3.0**

T19. Dominique Stevenson, Bills

6-0 231 Tennessee, 7th round
Will be a reserve on the weak side and should contribute on special teams right away. **GRADE: 3.0**

relentless in pursuit.

Weaknesses: Lacks height, is a liability in the red zone and loses some jump balls. Lacks ideal strength, so durability is a bit of a concern.

Bottom line: A playmaker and one of the NFL's more consistent cover corners.

GRADE: 9.2

5. Ahmed Plummer, 49ers

6-0 191

Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size and is willing to get involved in the run defense. Fluid hips allow him to turn and run with most receivers. Has quick feet and explodes out of his backpedal. Shows very good burst in and out of cuts. Is technically sound and plays with great leverage and body control. Capable of playing press coverage and has become more physical. Displays increased confidence and improved ball skills. Shows good anticipation and the ability to jump short-to-intermediate routes. Durable.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal speed to recover from mistakes and is most comfortable playing off receivers.

Bottom line: In just two seasons, has established himself as a playmaking, shutdown corner. Will get better with experience. Will benefit from the addition of rookie Mike Rumph because opponents no longer can avoid throwing at him.

GRADE: 9.0

6. Troy Vincent, Eagles

6-1 200

Age: 31 11th year

Strengths: Knows how to use his hands, excels in press coverage and has good size. Shows great intelligence and instincts in coverage. Has strong recognition skills and shows great burst out of his backpedal. Is excellent in run support. Is a powerful tackler who will throw his body around and rarely fails to wrap up. Can cover top receivers one on one.

Weaknesses: Has lost a step with age and struggles at times when forced to turn and run with receivers. Lacks ideal change of direction ability and has trouble staying with quicker receivers at times.

Bottom line: Experienced, physical corner who blends good cover skills with excellent size to excel against the running and passing games. Remains one of the best cover corners in the league despite his age.

GRADE: 8.6

7. Aeneas Williams, Rams

5-11 200

Age: 34 12th year

Strengths: Plays with a nonstop motor. Made successful transition from the Cardinals' man-to-man scheme to the Rams' cover 2 last season. Shows no signs of slowing and is in great shape despite age. Plays with incredible toughness and is tenacious when the ball is in the air. Rarely makes mental mistakes and takes great angles. Is aggressive against the run and has good size. Will press receivers and likes to get a shove in at the line of scrimmage. Technique and recognition skills are special.

Weaknesses: Durability is a bit of a concern. Did not have many interceptions last season.

Bottom line: Starting corner who is a complete player. Has at least two seasons left playing in a scheme that emphasizes zone coverage.

GRADE: 8.5

8. Ty Law, Patriots

5-11 200

Age: 28 8th year

Strengths: Has good size, speed and quickness. Does an excellent job of breaking on the ball and tracking it in the air. Physical player who will break down and punish a ballcarrier. Can blitz off the edge. Rarely is out of position. Excels in press coverage.

Weaknesses: Is starting to gamble and peek a little more than he did early in his career; as a result, will give up more big plays than a corner of his stature should.

Bottom line: One of the more complete corners in the league.

GRADE: 8.2

T9. R.W. McQuarters, Bears

5-10 198

Age: 25 5th year

Strengths: Shows good overall cover skills and natural athleticism. Is fairly physical and has good bulk. Has the ability to turn and run with the receiver. Has good but not great deep speed; is quicker than fast. Recovers well and closes well on the ball. Changes direction well. Comes up in run support and is a reliable tackler.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have the size or strength to have a big impact in the running game. Inconsistency the biggest problem in past. Gambles too much and gives up more big plays than a No. 1 cornerback should.

Bottom line: Starter who likely will be moved between the left and right sides to prevent

mismatches against the smaller Jerry Azumah. Must play with more discipline but has the athletic ability to be effective.

GRADE: 8.0

T9. Shawn Springs, Seahawks

6-0 196

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is naturally gifted and has good size and excellent change of direction skills. Has catch-up speed and the quickness to make plays on the ball. Shows good strength and the willingness to come up and defend against the run.

Weaknesses: Tends to lose focus. Will give up ground and plays to receivers who shouldn't be able to beat him. Will stand up straight and turn early.

Bottom line: Still one of the most gifted cornerbacks in the league when healthy. But he missed three games last season because of hamstring problems and another five serving a suspension. The Seahawks can't afford for their best corner to be inconsistent—or on the sideline.

GRADE: 8.0

11. Bobby Taylor, Eagles

6-3 216

Age: 28 8th year

Strengths: Is versatile; can play inside and outside. Has good size. Shows good ball skills, explosive burst to the ball and the ability to jump routes. Does an excellent job of pressing receivers at the line. Is excellent in the red zone because of his height and leaping ability. Is coming off the best season of his career.

Weaknesses: His effort is inconsistent. Lacks ideal lateral movement and change of direction ability. Is not a reliable tackler; will go after runners with his arms.

Bottom line: Always has had the cover skills and size to excel. If he can remain as focused as last season, he could reach a late career peak.

GRADE: 7.9

T12. Donnie Abraham, Jets

5-10 192

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: An experienced playmaker who has good ball skills. Has great feet and is technically sound. Does an excellent job reading the quarterback's eyes and breaking on the ball. Has great overall awareness and instincts in coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks the ability to take the opposing team's best receiver out of the

ON THE RISE: Deltha O'Neal, Broncos

His big-play flair won him a trip to the Pro Bowl in just his second year. He isn't yet a shutdown corner, but he could become one of the best in the league.

ON THE DECLINE: Alex Molden, Chargers

His injury problems forced the Chargers to draft Quentin Jammer in the first round. Jammer likely will have Molden's job by season's end, if not earlier.

SLEEPER: Andre Dyson, Titans

If Samari Rolle gets back on track and the Titans get their pass rush going, teams will throw at Dyson all day. But he has improved enough to make some big plays.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Shawn Springs, Seahawks

The former first-rounder was hindered by hamstring injuries and a suspension last year. He's a Pro Bowl-caliber player but must stay healthy and out of trouble.

BEST RUN DEFENDER: Corey Fuller, Browns

He has good size and is a tough, physical corner who is not afraid to throw his body around vs. the run. He also does a good job wrapping up the ballcarrier.

BEST IN MAN-TO-MAN COVERAGE: Champ Bailey, Redskins

Bailey, who can make the big play and take the opposition's best receiver out of the game, gets the nod over the Raiders' Charles Woodson.

BEST IN PRESS COVERAGE: Sam Madison, Dolphins

Like most press corners, he is physical and aggressive. What separates Madison from the rest is his hip flexibility and his ability to turn and run with the receiver.

BEST BLITZER: Charles Woodson, Raiders

Patriots QB Tom Brady is all too familiar with his former college teammate's closing speed and ability to anticipate the snap. Woodson also disguises the blitz well.



12

Ronde Barber

T12. Ray Buchanan, Falcons

5-9 186

Age: 30 10th year

Strengths: Shows good quickness and the ability to get in and out of cuts. Is a good athlete who has balance, instincts and ball skills. Will challenge for the ball in the air. Is a good form tackler who rarely misses a tackle when engaged.

Weaknesses: Does not have great speed and can be beat in the vertical game. Will lose some battles with bigger receivers. Is not getting any younger. Needs to play smarter.

Bottom line: Is a serviceable cover corner who can make some big plays. An improved front seven in Atlanta should help his performance.

GRADE: 7.8

T12. Samari Rolle, Titans

6-0 175

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has good size, vertical speed and overall quickness. Does a nice job of reading the quarterback's eyes and shows the ability to jump shorter routes. Is excellent off the edge as a blitzer.

Weaknesses: Is not very physical in the passing or running game. Needs to do a better job of breaking down and wrapping up in the open field. Lacks strength.

Bottom line: Is coming off a disappointing season in which he was slowed by injuries but has excellent cover skills.

GRADE: 7.8

T16. Ashley Ambrose, Falcons

5-10 187

Age: 31 11th year

Strengths: Is technically sound and constantly in position. Has good quickness. Does a nice job when the ball is in the air. Is not bashful about bumping at the line and likes to play physical at times.

Weaknesses: Does not have the speed to cover in the vertical game and is marginal vs. the run. Doesn't make many big plays. Age is a concern.

Bottom line: Clearly is on the downside of his career but is well-prepared, makes few mistakes and still is a solid starter.

GRADE: 7.7

T16. Aaron Glenn, Texans

5-9 185

Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has outstanding quickness and explosiveness. Shows a short-area burst, can turn and run with most receivers and is very fluid. Has underrated strength and seems to know opponents' tendencies. Plays bigger than size indicates and can press receivers. Does an excellent job of jumping shorter routes. Is versatile enough to play off a receiver or tight.

Weaknesses: Lacks natural size and can be pushed around at times despite strength. Minor history of injuries.

Bottom line: Starter who lacks prototypical size but has great cover skills and will allow the Texans to take chances.

GRADE: 7.7

T16. Deltha O'Neal, Broncos

5-10 196

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has great natural cover skills. Shows good recovery speed and excellent ball

skills. Has good recognition skills. Will continue to improve with experience.

Weaknesses: Is too aggressive at times and will give up big plays. Does not have a great feel for coverages. Needs to play with more discipline. Does not contribute much on running plays.

Bottom line: An emerging cover corner who is a budding big play-maker.

GRADE: 7.7

T19. Nate Clements, Bills

5-11 204

Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and likes to be physical. Plays faster than 40 time indicates and shows the ability to turn and run. Has good closing burst and recovers well on the outside. Can run with most receivers, and hips are fluid. Has tremendous ball skills.

Weaknesses: Doesn't always get a clean break on the ball and takes some false steps. Has trouble reading backfield movements at times and occasionally bites on the play fake. Must improve technique and consistency.

Bottom line: No. 2 corner who should develop into a Pro Bowl player in time. Has a lot of upside.

GRADE: 7.6

T19. Mike McKenzie, Packers

6-0 190

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has the strength to play press coverage and the quickness to play in the open. Has fluid hips and can turn and run with most receivers. Is faster than his 40 time indicates and shows good catch-up speed when the ball is in the air. Will come up and deliver a blow in the running game. Shows good awareness and recognition skills.

Weaknesses: Lacks bulk, ideal ball skills and leaping ability. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Is a physical, shutdown corner who is not a playmaker but is consistent and has good combination of athletic ability, strength and speed.

GRADE: 7.6

T19. Jason Sehorn, Giants

6-2 215

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Has excellent instincts and recognition skills. Reads the quarterback's eyes and jumps routes. Has good strength and size. Does a nice job taking receivers out of their routes. Changes direction well. Can attack the ball when it is in the air.

Weaknesses: Is aging and no longer has the speed to turn and run with the fastest and elite receivers. Has not played a full season since 1997.

Bottom line: Still has excellent cover skills in the short area, but durability is a concern.

GRADE: 7.6

22. Walt Harris, Colts

5-11 195

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: An excellent athlete who takes excellent angles to the ball. Has great short-area explosiveness. Shows good range in zone coverage. Is an intelligent player who won't make a lot of mistakes or give up many big plays.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal strength and gets pushed around by bigger receivers. Is not a good tackler and is not much help in run

game in man-to-man coverage. Needs help downfield when playing against better vertical receivers. Must be more physical.

Bottom line: Because the pass rush should be improved up front and because the Jets primarily use zone coverage, Abraham should post similar numbers to last season, when he had six interceptions.

GRADE: 7.8

T12. Ronde Barber, Buccaneers

5-10 184

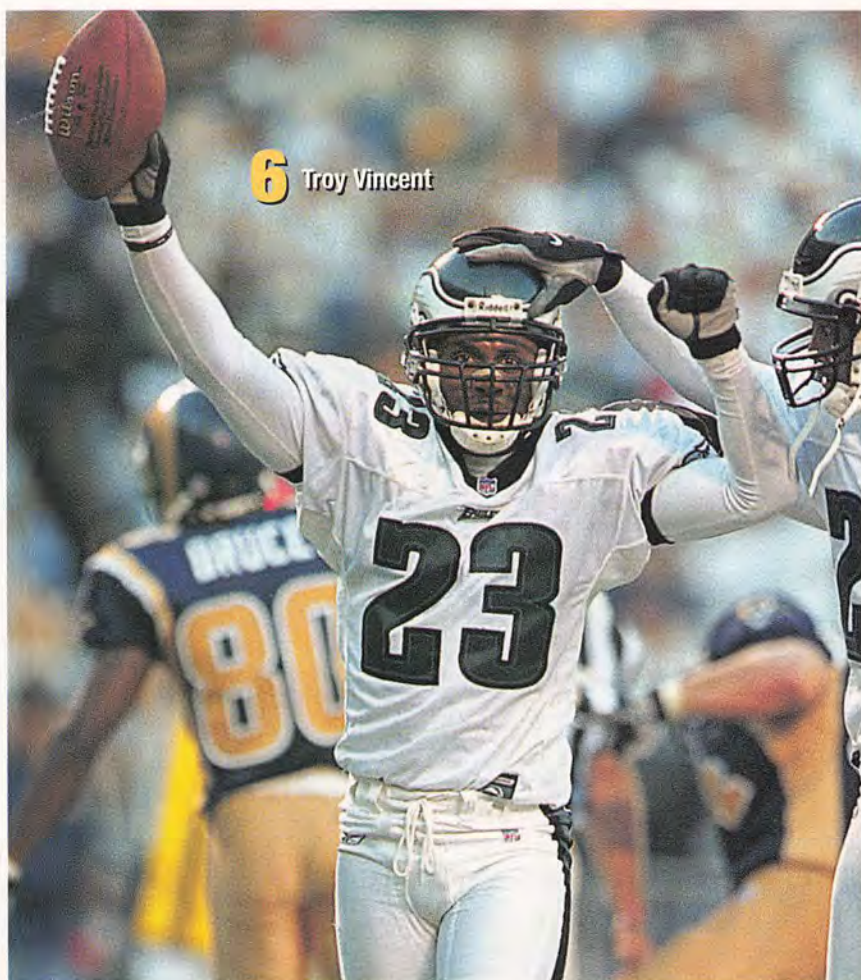
Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Can play with quickness or a physical style. Changes direction well and displays top ability. A good tackler who is willing to sacrifice his body to bring down a ballcarrier. Excellent blitzer who has some big-play flair. Does a nice job studying the tendencies of opponents.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size and doesn't have great straight-line speed. Has trouble when pressing receivers. Struggles in a man-to-man scheme; must be protected by zone.

Bottom line: Coming off his best season, Barber is a perfect fit for the Bucs' cover 2 scheme.

GRADE: 7.8



6 Troy Vincent

outstanding leaper who can contend jump-ball type passes.

Weaknesses: Is not big or physical. Has problems in the red zone against bigger receivers. Had mental lapses last season and seemed to slip into a slump.

Bottom line: Free-agent addition who should continue to get better. Changing teams might help his concentration. **GRADE: 7.4**

T23. Patrick Surtain, Dolphins

5-11 192 **Age: 26 5th year**

Strengths: Has adequate size and speed and good technique. Is a good athlete who has excellent short-area quickness. Is versatile. Has a good blend of balance, body control and hands. Is a good tackler in the running game.

Weaknesses: Is not real physical. Was inconsistent at times last season; did not show the same focus and discipline as in the past. Doesn't make a lot of plays.

Bottom line: Can take receivers out of their game but has a ways to go before he can be considered an elite cover corner. **GRADE: 7.4**

T23. Denard Walker, Broncos

6-1 190 **Age: 29 6th year**

Strengths: Plays with excellent technique. Is very disciplined. Will push receivers out of routes. Shows good body control and balance. Has good straight-line speed. Works hard. Is a good tackler.

Weaknesses: Has some trouble changing directions. Does not fit well in the slot. Does not show the ability to recover quickly.

Bottom line: Is solid in coverage but is not a shutdown corner. Should have an efficient second season in Denver. **GRADE: 7.4**

T23. Bryant Westbrook, Cowboys

6-0 198 **Age: 27 6th year**

Strengths: Has the size and strength to match up with any receiver in the league in press coverage. Does a good job of muscling receivers out of their routes. Shows great instincts in coverage and is technically sound.

Weaknesses: Has not regained full speed since rupturing Achilles' tendon in November 2000. Is not a good tackler in the open field. Can be too aggressive at times and will get caught peeking into the backfield on play-action.

Bottom line: Has the potential to be a shutdown corner but still is trying to rebound from the injury two years ago. **GRADE: 7.4**

T30. Mario Edwards, Cowboys

6-0 191 **Age: 26 3rd year**

Strengths: Plays with great confidence and has good size and excellent speed. Has premier change of direction skills, good short-area burst and the ability to make plays in the short to intermediate zones. Has improved recognition skills. Is a willing run supporter. Tackles well in the open field.

Weaknesses: Lacks the strength to press receivers at line of scrimmage and struggles

support. Is not a big playmaker. Hands are inconsistent.

Bottom line: Has the range and speed to excel in zone coverage, which primarily is what the Colts will run this season. **GRADE: 7.5**

T23. Aaron Beasley, Jets

6-0 205 **Age: 29 7th year**

Strengths: Has excellent size and likes to muscle receivers out of routes. Is willing in run support and takes great angles to the ball. Can turn and run with most receivers. Has good ball skills and leaping ability.

Weaknesses: Lacks speed and struggles to recover after making a mistake. Is a liability in the vertical passing game. Takes chances and tends to give up the big play.

Bottom line: With the improved pass rush and the addition of Donnie Abraham on the left, Beasley may have a slow start but should have a strong overall season as the Jets' No. 2 corner. **GRADE: 7.4**

T23. Corey Fuller, Browns

5-10 205 **Age: 31 8th year**

Strengths: Is strong player and has good size. Moves well laterally and is smooth in and out of his cuts. Is technically sound. Has good short-area burst. Can smother a receiver at the line of scrimmage. Shows good

awareness and is comfortable in space.

Weaknesses: Does not have good speed; if the receiver gets behind him, it's over. Struggles in man coverage.

Bottom line: Ideally suited for a cover 2 defense, where his deficiencies in man coverage wouldn't be as apparent. **GRADE: 7.4**

T23. Ryan McNeil, Chargers

6-2 192 **Age: 31 10th year**

Strengths: Has good size, speed and athletic ability. Is a sound technician who has good instincts. Plays under control and takes good angles to the ball. Excels at reading the quarterback's eyes and breaking on the ball.

Weaknesses: Lacks deep speed and ideal physical skills. Struggles in man-to-man coverage. Is not smooth in transition.

Bottom line: Is an efficient player who gets the most out of adequate skills. Can be effective if he gets help in zone passing schemes. **GRADE: 7.4**

T23. Duane Starks, Cardinals

5-10 170 **Age: 28 5th year**

Strengths: Has excellent cover skills. Can change directions in coverage and stay with quick receivers. Shows a great feel for routes and can adjust on the move. Is an

to turn and run with faster receivers. Must continue to work on recognition skills; still bites on play action.

Bottom line: Has the athletic ability to become a shutdown corner once he gains experience. **GRADE: 7.3**

T30. Fred Smoot, Redskins

5-11 179 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is extremely quick. Shows tremendous reflexes and body control. Seems to have an extra gear when the ball is in the air. Has good height and leaping ability. Knows how to get position on the receiver and shows excellent hands when battling for the ball. Plays with confidence, takes calculated chances and has excellent recovery speed.

Weaknesses: Has durability and character concerns. Lacks ideal strength and struggles against bigger and stronger receivers. Does not offer much in run support.

Bottom line: Has the cover skills, speed and playmaking ability to develop into a solid starting corner. **GRADE: 7.3**

T32. Dre' Bly, Rams

5-9 190 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good speed, excellent quickness and great instincts. Is aggressive and likes to get into a receiver's face at the line of scrimmage. Changes directions quickly and can get to the ball in a hurry. Has tremendous confidence and will take chances. Explodes out of the backpedal and will make a lot of plays coming forward.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and isn't physical enough in run support for the Rams' cover 2 scheme. Gets pushed around by bigger receivers and constantly is challenged downfield.

Bottom line: Nickel back who is pushing for a starting job but lacks the ideal size to match up on the outside. Needs to play with more discipline. **GRADE: 7.2**

T32. Marcus Coleman, Texans

6-2 210 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent combination of size and athletic ability. Is very fluid and shows good short-area bursts and anticipation. Does an excellent job of making plays in front and will jump short routes and make plays vs. the run. Is excellent in zone situations and a nice matchup vs. big wide receivers.

Weaknesses: Had an off year in 2001; appeared to be guessing at times and taking too many chances. Does not have great deep speed and tends to guess to compensate for it.

Bottom line: Starter who is an excellent complement to Aaron Glenn and can match up with bigger receivers. **GRADE: 7.2**

T32. Chris McAlister, Ravens

6-1 206 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has great size. Can play in man-to-man situations or jam and press at the line of scrimmage. Can push receivers out of their routes. Shows excellent big-play ability

vs. the run.

Weaknesses: Tends to take plays off. Must improve technique. Lets too many receivers get past him. Must elevate level of play.

Bottom line: Because untested Gary Baxter is at the other corner spot, teams likely will stay away from McAlister, which should take some pressure off him. **GRADE: 7.2**

T32. Dexter McCleon, Rams

5-10 195 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Shows good hip flexibility, solid change of direction skills and the ability to turn and run with receivers. Is quick into his backpedal. Can cover receivers in isolation. Rarely bites on a play fake. Does an excellent job when the ball is in the air and has tremendous body control.

Weaknesses: Had too many mental lapses and gave up too many big plays last season. Isn't a great playmaker and lacks ball skills. Shows inconsistent footwork and technique.

Bottom line: Confident corner who has good athletic ability but must improve his discipline and consistency to keep his starting job. **GRADE: 7.2**

T32. Daylon McCutcheon, Browns

5-10 180 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has great quickness, very good footwork and sound technique. Shows the ability to plant and redirect. Has good instincts. Is aggressive.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size and power to play the run. Is not a factor off the edge as a blitzer.

Bottom line: Is a good cover corner who moves inside in the Browns' nickel package. **GRADE: 7.2**

T32. Chad Scott, Steelers

6-1 201 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has good speed, instincts and balls skills. Is a good matchup corner in terms of size. Rarely is out of position and takes good angles to ball. Is an outstanding zone corner who closes well on ball and is an effective red-zone player.

Weaknesses: Is not a shutdown corner. Lacks deep speed and burst to cover man to man against a deep threat. Lacks extra gear and is not fluid in and out of backpedal. Takes false steps at times.

Bottom line: Aggressive play by the front seven masks his limited ability to cover deep threats. Is improving and has a knack for making big plays. **GRADE: 7.2**

T32. Dewayne Washington, Steelers

6-0 193 Age: 29 9th year

Strengths: Plays well in space. Excels when playing off the receiver in coverage and plays smart by not taking many chances. Takes good angles and does a nice job when the receiver is in front of him.

Weaknesses: Struggles to catch up on deep routes. Does not always show burst and will give up some big plays. Lacks physical skills and speed to make up for mistakes or when he gambles and loses. Is not smooth when

turning and running and appears lost at times.

Bottom line: A solid player who sometimes appears to lack passion and gives up an occasional big play. **GRADE: 7.2**

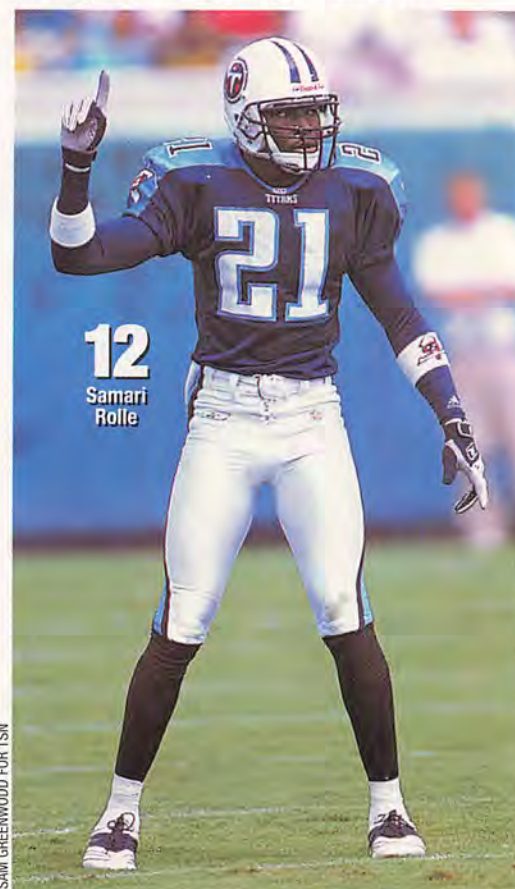
T32. Jason Webster, 49ers

5-10 180 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Displays excellent quickness and can run with most receivers. Has good leaping ability and has learned to time his jumps. Shows quick feet. Is aggressive and likes to jump shorter routes.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size and the speed to recover from mistakes. Is not strong, will get pushed around at times and is somewhat of a liability in the red zone.

Bottom line: Has excellent athletic ability but is a better fit as a nickel back because of his lack of size. Eventually will be replaced as a starter by rookie Mike Rumph. **GRADE: 7.2**



T32. Tyrone Williams, Packers

5-11 193 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has fluid hips and the ability to turn and run with receivers. Rarely takes false steps or wastes motion. Is aggressive against the run and isn't afraid to throw his body around.

Weaknesses: Is overaggressive, gambles too much and misses too many tackles in the open field. Doesn't show great burst to the ball or recovery speed when the ball is in the air. Is not exceptionally big or fast.

Bottom line: Is an excellent athlete and an

experienced cover corner, but he gives up too many big plays. **GRADE: 7.2**

T41. Will Allen, Giants

5-10 192 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has great recovery speed, some playmaking skills and reliable hands. Has adequate size and good leaping ability. Has great range. Plays with a physical and aggressive style. Has an impressive burst out of backpedal. Changes directions nicely.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent. Looks confused at times. Blows too many coverage assignments and gives up too many big plays. Must improve footwork and misses too much in press coverage. Is not effective enough in run support. Must improve recognition skills.

Bottom line: Struggled to adjust to the Giants' system last season but has cover skills and potential to develop into an effective starter. **GRADE: 7.1**



7
Aeneas
Williams

ROBERT SEALE / TSN

T41. Artrell Hawkins, Bengals

5-10 190 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Shows excellent athletic ability and has good size. Displays great explosiveness and burst in and out of cuts. Displays the ability to turn and run with most receivers in the league. Explodes out of the backpedal.

Weaknesses: Does not have great recognition skills or show great football intelligence. Struggles to get a good push at the line of scrimmage and is inconsistent in press coverage. Appears to struggle to locate the ball in the air at times and does not adjust well.

Bottom line: Is not a shutdown corner but shows signs of improvement. Has the cover

skills to be a develop into one.

GRADE: 7.1

T43. Fernando Bryant, Jaguars

5-10 180 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is an outstanding athlete. Has great overall quickness and shows a second gear in the open field. Shows great ability when ball is in the air.

Weaknesses: Is not overly physical and is adequate in run support. Has lapses in concentration and gambles at times. Gives up more big plays than he should.

Bottom line: Still is a talented player but seems to have regressed the last couple of seasons. Does not play like the shutdown corner he was when he entered the league in 1999. **GRADE: 7.0**

T43. Corey Chavous, Vikings

6-1 206 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and does a good job of playing the run. Is physical and aggressive. Has ideal diagnostic skills and shows great instincts. Rarely is caught out of position and will not give up many big plays.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal speed and is not a shutdown corner. Does not have great hip flexibility and will struggle to turn and run with faster receivers. Needs safety help over the top in man coverage. Lacks great ball skills and is not a big playmaker.

Bottom line: Reliable starter who has limitations in coverage because of lack of speed but is intelligent and physical enough to be a productive starter. **GRADE: 7.0**

T43. Ken Lucas, Seahawks

6-0 203 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has nice combination of size, speed, quickness and strength. Has great straight-line speed and makes a lot of plays. Shows good overall ball skills. Aggressively pursues the ball in jump-ball situations.

Weaknesses: Does not get a great shove at the line of scrimmage and needs to be more physical. Lacks good man-to-man coverage skills. Tends to lose concentration at times. Is indecisive and tends to avoid contact.

Bottom line: Once he learns to make greater use of his attributes, he should develop into a solid starting corner. **GRADE: 7.0**

T43. Otis Smith, Patriots

5-11 195 Age: 36 13th year

Strengths: Is competitive and smart. Always seems to be around the ball and rarely is out of position. Can play press coverage and force receivers off their routes.

Weaknesses: Is a liability on deep routes and guesses too often. Age and durability could be a problem.

Bottom line: Has played in coach Bill Belichick's schemes for a long time and knows what is expected of him. Should be on the verge of another productive season. **GRADE: 7.0**

T43. Eric Warfield, Chiefs

6-0 198 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is big and physical and likes to mix it up. Does a nice job on run support

and is a solid open-field tackler. Has good overall instincts, tracks the ball well and has had success as a nickel corner.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have great quickness or burst to the ball. Does not have great deep speed and must get a hand on the receiver to be effective.

Bottom line: Starter who has everything except pure deep speed. Fits nicely in the Chiefs' scheme. **GRADE: 7.0**

T48. Jeff Burris, Bengals

6-0 190 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has good instincts and recognition skills. Has good size and strength. Shows the ability to press the receiver at the line of scrimmage. Displays excellent leadership skills.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal hip flexibility and will struggle to turn and run with quicker receivers. Is not a shutdown corner and will not provide a lot of big plays. Is learning a new scheme.

Bottom line: Free agent acquisition who should improve Bengals secondary because of experience, leadership and not allowing a lot of big plays. Not a dominant player. **GRADE: 6.9**

T48. Jason Craft, Jaguars

5-10 178 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has good quickness. Is aggressive and likes to jump on routes and take chances in short and underneath areas. Is a good technician.

Weaknesses: Is not big or physical. Struggles on the edge covering big receivers who can go deep. Is a liability if isolated.

Bottom line: Has moved into the starting lineup because of Aaron Beasley's departure but probably is in over his head. As a nickel corner last season, Craft was a perfect fit. **GRADE: 6.9**

T48. Doug Evans, Seahawks

6-1 190 Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Has good size and adequate speed. Has a lot of savvy and is strong mentally. Has good strength and gets a good push against receivers at the line of scrimmage.

Weaknesses: Lacks change of direction ability and man-to-man cover skills. Is a poor tackler. No longer has the lateral quickness to make some of the plays he used to make.

Bottom line: Still has the skills and craftiness to do a good job as the No. 3 corner in the Seahawks' nickel and dime schemes. Probably doesn't have more than one or two productive years left. **GRADE: 6.9**

T48. Al Harris, Eagles

6-1 185 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Is aggressive and has good strength at the point of attack. Shows the ability to press most receivers at the line of scrimmage. Will jump routes and shows good short-area quickness. Has excellent instincts, recognition skills and ball skills.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal speed. Is

overaggressive at times and will get beat occasionally by double moves.

Bottom line: A nickel corner who would be a starter if he had better speed. Must battle rookie Lito Sheppard for playing time until Troy Vincent retires or leaves. **GRADE: 6.9**

T48. Duane Hawthorne, Cowboys

5-10 175 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has good speed, feet and overall athletic ability. Does a great job of getting in and out of his backpedal. Is a good wrap-up tackler.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size to jam receivers at line of scrimmage and doesn't have the leaping ability to fight for jump balls. Struggles when forced to cover a bigger receiver one on one.

Bottom line: Started 11 games last season but is better suited for nickel back duties. **GRADE: 6.9**

T48. Anthony Henry, Browns

6-0 198 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Is faster than most safeties and bigger than most cornerbacks. Can press receivers at line of scrimmage. Showed a nose for the ball as a rookie last season (10 interceptions). Has the ability to throw and kick in certain special teams situations.

Weaknesses: Struggles in space. Needs to settle on a position.

Bottom line: Is a backup cornerback and special teams contributor. **GRADE: 6.9**

T48. Brian Kelly, Buccaneers

5-11 193 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Makes plays in pass coverage. Can turn and run with most receivers. Has a flair for making big plays. Plays with confidence. Is a solid wrap-up tackler. Can jam receivers and force them out of routes.

Weaknesses: Struggles in space. Takes false steps; has poor run/pass diagnostic skills.

Bottom line: Has the talent to be a starter for almost any defense. Though a little light on experience, he will improve with time as a starter. **GRADE: 6.9**

T48. Tom Knight, Patriots

6-0 196 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has excellent deep speed. Can turn and run with any receiver. Doesn't make a lot of mistakes.

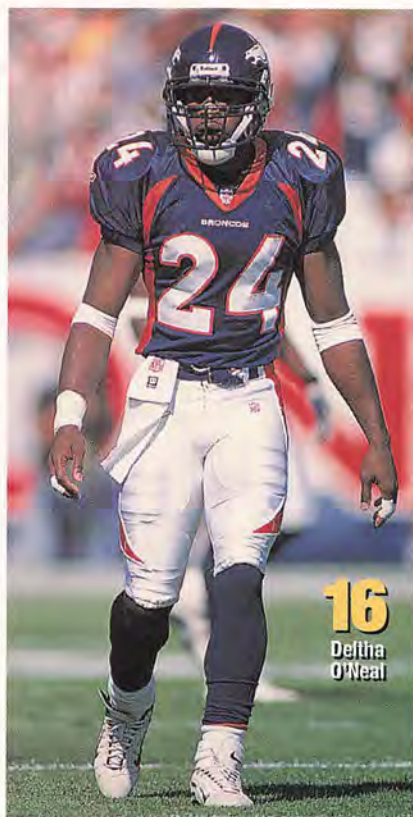
Weaknesses: Durability is concern. Lacks consistency. Does not have great natural ball skills. Can't shut down a quality wide receiver. Is adequate against the run.

Bottom line: Might be an example of a player who needs a new environment to recharge his career. Goes from a struggling franchise in Arizona to the defending Super Bowl champs without a lot of pressure. **GRADE: 6.9**

T48. Ray Mickens, Jets

5-8 180 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Is a good athlete. Shows excellent change of direction skills. Is aggressive and can press receivers. Does not get caught out of position. Does a nice job of coming up



and playing the run.

Weaknesses: Is vastly undersized, which affects his ability to match up against bigger, more physical receivers. Is a liability in the red zone.

Bottom line: Remains one of the best nickel backs in the league and provides quality depth and help on special teams. **GRADE: 6.9**

T57. Jerry Azumah, Bears

5-10 189 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has ideal quickness and speed. Shows great burst to the ball and the ability to move laterally. Technique is improving. Is a good tackler.

Weaknesses: Played running back in college, so is somewhat unpolished. Does not have great height. Is stiff in the hips and struggles to turn and run with receivers at times.

Bottom line: Is a much better fit as a nickel back than as an every-down starter. Could be the weak link on an otherwise solid defense. **GRADE: 6.8**

T57. Darrell Green, Redskins

5-9 187 Age: 42 20th year

Strengths: Shows good short-area quickness. Has great diagnostic skills and the ability to read a receiver's route. Rarely gives up the big play or is caught out of position. Still has the flexibility in hips to turn and run with the receiver.

Weaknesses: Has lost a step. Lacks the strength to cover bigger receivers or to be a factor in the running game.

Bottom line: Future Hall of Famer still has

the cover skills to be a solid No. 3 corner.

GRADE: 6.8

T57. Todd Lyght, Lions

6-0 190 Age: 33 12th year

Strengths: Can control the line of scrimmage and redirect most receivers' routes. Has recognition skills; reads the quarterback's eyes and attacks the ball.

Weaknesses: Gives up big plays. Struggles to run with faster receivers and sometimes looks lazy. Is a liability in run support and an unreliable tackler.

Bottom line: A starter because of injuries. Is physical and likes to press but no longer has the skills of a No. 1 corner. **GRADE: 6.8**

T57. Kevin Mathis, Saints

5-9 181 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has good quickness and toughness. Can hold up one on one. Can play in space. Moves to the ball well. Shows good read-and-react skills. Plays with intensity.

Weaknesses: Is undersized. Injuries are a concern. Does not have great speed. Struggles to match up at the point of attack in the running game.

Bottom line: A fringe starter coming off a serious neck injury who is better suited to playing in the slot against multiple-receiver sets. **GRADE: 6.8**

T57. Deshaea Townsend, Steelers

5-10 191 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Is efficient and productive. Is a good athlete who is quicker than fast and has good hips and body control. Can read and react and turn and run in man-to-man coverage. Is disciplined. Shows little wasted motion in pass coverage, taking good angles to ball. Shows good balance.

Weaknesses: Is not overly strong and does not play physical style. Can't match up on perimeter where receivers can push off and run around him. Is tight in the slot.

Bottom line: Does many little things right, including blitzing from the corner. Is not flashy but can make plays. Fits perfectly as a No. 3 corner and will give Pittsburgh solid production. **GRADE: 6.8**

T57. Willie Williams, Seahawks

5-9 181 Age: 31 10th year

Strengths: Has good quickness and short-area burst. Can match up against fast receivers. Is technically sound and has the skills and technique to play at a high level as a nickel corner.

Weaknesses: Is aging fast. Durability is a concern. Is undersized and lacks natural cover skills. Is marginal against the run.

Bottom line: Is valued for depth. Showed last season he still can be used as a third corner—or a starter in case of emergency. **GRADE: 6.8**

T63. David Barrett, Cardinals

5-10 195 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has a thick, running back-type

build. Is strong in press coverage. Can play zone or man coverages. Contributes against the run.

Weaknesses: Lacks experience and is prone to critical mistakes. Bites on double moves. Takes poor angles when the ball is in the air. Lacks height, which allows teams to throw over him downfield.

Bottom line: Is best suited to be a nickel back in the slot, where his lack of size wouldn't hinder him as much. **GRADE: 6.7**

T63. Robert Bean, Bengals

5-11 178 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has good hip flexibility and shows the ability to turn and run with the receiver. Has excellent short-area burst, speed and quickness. Explodes in and out of cuts.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal strength and will be pushed around by bigger receivers. Is a liability in the red zone and is a target in the vertical passing game. Lacks the strength to press

receivers at the line of scrimmage or to play a big role in the running game.

Bottom line: Reserve who has the athletic ability and cover skills to be an excellent nickel back and possibly a productive starter in time. **GRADE: 6.7**

T63. Tay Cody, Chargers

5-9 180 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has a smooth backpedal, fluid hips and no wasted motion. Supports on running plays. Has good hands and reacts well to passes.

Weaknesses: Lacks great size and speed. Is overmatched in the red zone.

Bottom line: Probably won't get a lot better than he is. Lacks the size and speed a top cornerback needs. **GRADE: 6.7**

T63. Andre Dyson, Titans

5-10 187 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good athletic ability. Has tremendous speed, which allows him to

recover when he makes a mistake. Shows outstanding range in zone coverage. Is a good tackler.

Weaknesses: Tends to get pushed around by bigger receivers. Is a liability in the red zone and in the vertical passing game. Is not a big hitter and is not very physical.

Bottom line: Has the cover skills to develop into an effective No.2 cover corner with time but lacks ideal size. **GRADE: 6.7**

T63. Ken Irvin, Saints

5-11 186 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Doesn't make a lot of mistakes. Can read routes. Makes plays in front of him. Has good short burst when coming forward. Is a good fit as a cover corner in the slot.

Weaknesses: Does not make a lot of big plays. Has less than average speed and can't match up with receivers down the field.

Bottom line: Is best suited to play in the slot or in short-area zone coverage. **GRADE: 6.7**

T63. Eric Kelly, Vikings

5-10 197 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Possesses elite lateral mobility, good speed and great quickness. Appears to be improving and shows good work ethic. Has good ball skills and the ability to make big plays. Does a good job of wrapping up in run support.

Weaknesses: Is not very physical and will get pushed around by bigger receivers. Is a liability in the red zone and vertical passing game.

Bottom line: Starter who is better working out of the slot. Should get better and has the athletic ability to do an adequate job in this role. **GRADE: 6.7**

T63. Will Peterson, Giants

6-0 197 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent size. Can turn and run with a receiver. Has great confidence. Is aggressive around the ball and is willing to provide support against the run.

Weaknesses: Takes too many chances in coverage, gives up too many big plays and is inconsistent. Lacks ideal recovery speed.

Bottom line: Nickel corner who has the physical style and athletic ability to become a starter but must improve recognition skills and technique in coverage. **GRADE: 6.7**

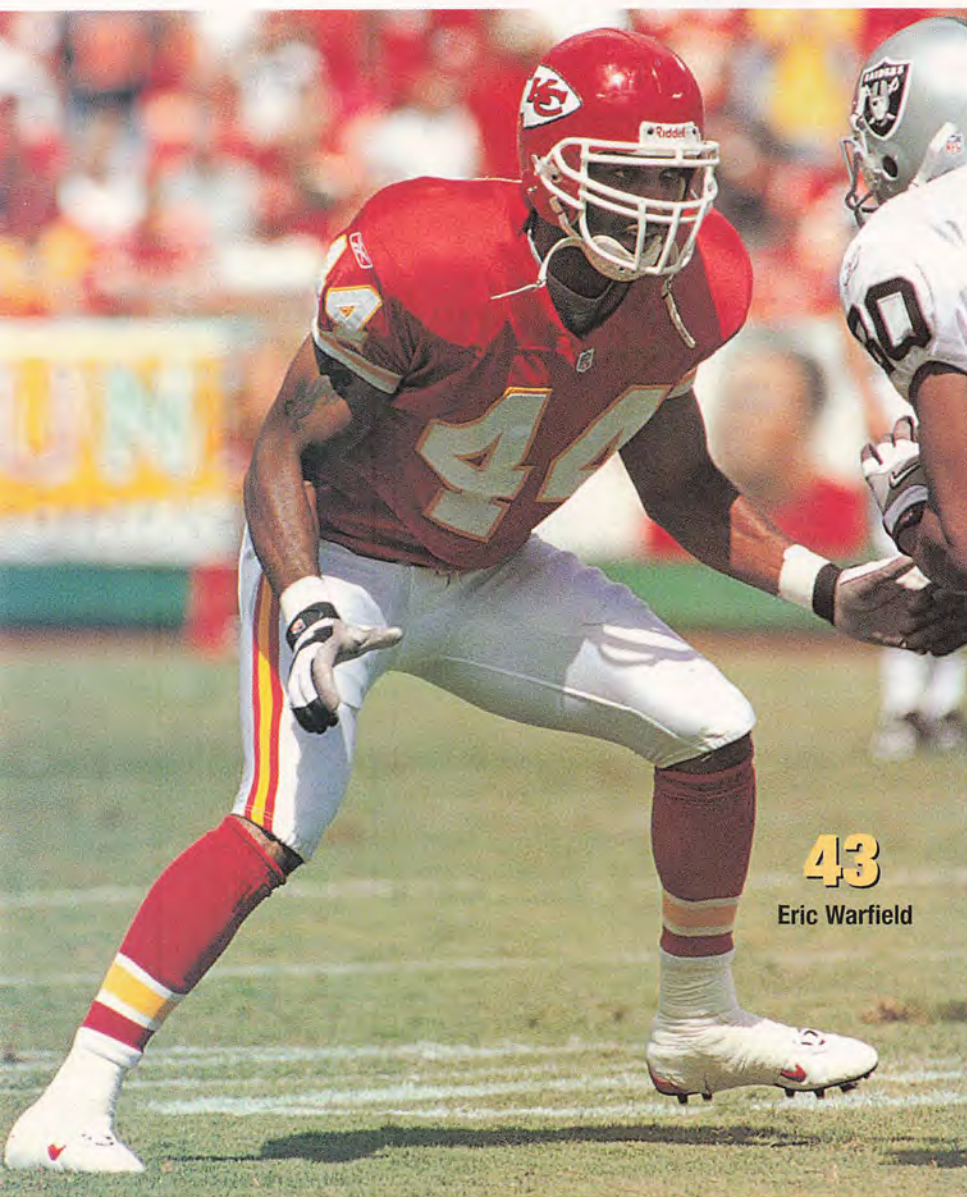
T63. Dwight Smith, Buccaneers

5-10 201 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has strength, toughness and athleticism. Can push around receivers. Is aggressive and physical. Is elusive on kick returns and changes directions well.

Weaknesses: Must improve technique. Often is too aggressive. Gets turned around when the ball is in the air. Is slightly undersized. Is inconsistent and fumbles too much when returning kickoffs.

Bottom line: Is a solid contributor on special teams but must contribute more on defense as the third cornerback. His physical tools are perfect for this scheme. **GRADE: 6.7**



PETER NEWCOMB FOR TSN

T63. Robert Tate, Vikings

5-10 193

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Displays excellent speed and quickness. Has adequate size and plays bigger than his size. Can press the receiver at the line of scrimmage. Appears to be improving.

Weaknesses: Lacks great recognition skills and will be a step slow at times. Lacks ideal hip flexibility and appears stiff when forced to turn and run with the receiver.

Bottom line: A No. 4 corner who played a significant role last season but could make biggest contribution on special teams. Needs to improve his overall feel for the game.

GRADE: 6.7

T63. Fred Thomas, Saints

5-9 172

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has solid cover skills. Shows good quickness and lateral movement. Is physical and aggressive. Is a good tackler. Doesn't make a lot of mental mistakes.

Weaknesses: Injuries and age are starting to take their toll. Lacks size. Is a liability on the outside or in the red zone. Tends to get out-jumped on fade and deep routes.

Bottom line: Would be a much better fit as a No. 3 corner working in the slot, but the team doesn't have a better option outside.

GRADE: 6.7

T63. Fred Weary, Falcons

5-10 181

Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Does a nice job of playing in zone situations. Is quick and does not have a lot of wasted motion.

Weaknesses: Shows ability to jam and push receivers at the line of scrimmage. Struggles if a receiver goes deep. Allows too much of a cushion. Can't be left in one-on-one situations.

Bottom line: Has been a spot starter who has been used as a third corner, matched vs. slot receivers. Also has excelled on special teams.

GRADE: 6.7

T74. William Barte, Chiefs

6-1 196

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Likes to play a physical style of pass defense. Has long arms and good height, which helps in the red zone. Is tough to throw the ball over.

Weaknesses: Does not have a big burst or a lot of smoothness. Will bite on double moves and will guess and peek into the backfield.

Bottom line: Can be successful and will get time in the rotation at corner.

GRADE: 6.6

T74. Donovan Greer, Redskins

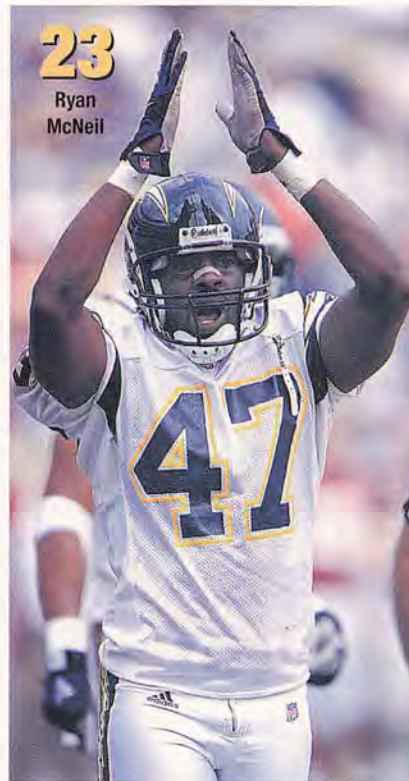
5-9 178

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has good ability, a compact build and great burst out of the backpedal. Is fluid in and out of cuts.

Weaknesses: Is coming off a season-ending knee injury that took four months to recover from. Is undersized and struggles with bigger receivers. Is a liability in the red zone.

Bottom line: A No. 4 corner who plays with excellent technique. Had shown signs of



improvement before the injury; durability is a concern.

GRADE: 6.6

T76. Terry Cousin, Panthers

5-9 182

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is quick and fast. Has great short-area burst and is at his best when coming forward. Shows the ability to play on underneath routes. Has the speed to make up for mistakes.

Weaknesses: Lacks height. Does not have great leaping ability. Is not a physical player. Lacks the ability to make the big play.

Bottom line: Has been an on-again, off-again starter. Is a No. 3 or No. 4 slot cover corner.

GRADE: 6.5

T76. Tory James, Raiders

6-2 185

Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Has good awareness, change of direction ability and short-area burst. Does not have much wasted motion, takes good angles and breaks on the ball well. Is lanky and has good reach.

Weaknesses: Is not physical and is a liability against the run. Lacks the deep speed to line up on the edge and defend man to man.

Bottom line: Is a career backup whose biggest contributions come on special teams.

GRADE: 6.5

T76. Bhawoh Jue, Packers

6-0 200

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is big, strong and aggressive and likes to press. Is good in run support, takes good angles to ball and is a better-than-average tackler.

Weaknesses: Has marginal anticipation and has problems reading and reacting to routes. Is stiff in the hips and struggles to turn and run with receivers.

Bottom line: A physical player who played safety last season, he needs time and must improve recognition skills to make a successful transition to cornerback.

GRADE: 6.5

T76. David Macklin, Colts

5-9 193

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has the quickness and cover skills to take the opposing teams' No. 3 receiver out of the game. Is willing in run support. Covers the slot receiver in the team's nickel package.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size and speed to be an every-down player. Is a liability in the red zone and struggles against bigger, more physical receivers.

Bottom line: Is one of the better nickel corners in the league and is good enough to get the job done in the Colts' new cover 2 scheme.

GRADE: 6.5

T80. Gary Baxter, Ravens

6-2 204

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is aggressive. Does well in bump-and-run and press coverage. Likes to challenge receivers. Has excellent range. Always is around the ball.

Weaknesses: Is not great in run support. Doesn't make many big plays. Does not have great deep speed. Can be frozen on play fakes.

Bottom line: Likely will be thrown into the fire before he is ready. There is a lot to like about him but he probably is a year away from becoming dependable.

GRADE: 6.4

T80. Ray Crockett, Chiefs

5-10 184

Age: 35 14th year

Strengths: Has good overall toughness, uses his hands well and plays with intelligence and good instincts.

Weaknesses: Does not have deep speed, lacks a great burst and does not show much big-play ability. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: Will play tough and won't make many mistakes. Lacks the physical tools to compete well. The Chiefs should be looking for better options in the nickel and dime packages.

GRADE: 6.4

T80. Rodney Heath, Bengals

5-10 177

Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Shows excellent short-area burst and overall quickness. Has good hip flexibility and can turn and run with the receiver. Can change direction quickly.

Weaknesses: Makes too many mental mistakes and does not have great football intelligence. Will get turned around by double moves and needs to play with more discipline. Lacks ideal strength.

Bottom line: Reserve corner who must improve recognition skills before playing a significant role.

GRADE: 6.4

T80. Alex Molden, Chargers

5-10 190

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has decent straight-line speed and instincts. Takes proper angles to ball and positions himself well. Has good strength and is adept in zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Lack of size limits his ability to defend the run. Does not have a burst or smooth lateral movement. Can be overpowered by blockers. Was bothered by nagging injuries last season.

Bottom line: Doesn't make many plays and his skills appear to be in decline. **GRADE: 6.4**

T80. Daryl Porter, Patriots

5-9 190

Age: 28 4th year

Strengths: Has good speed. Keeps wasted motion to a minimum. Is a solid tackler. Makes biggest contributions on special teams.

Weaknesses: Cannot play on the perimeter. Does not step up and make plays vs. the run. Is too small and not physical enough to play safety.

Bottom line: Gives everything he has but has obvious physical limitations. **GRADE: 6.4**

T80. Hank Poteat, Steelers

5-10 198

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Shows good hips and man-to-man skills. Can turn and run with receivers. Can cover short to intermediate routes and can line up against slot receivers because of quickness and fluidity in his movements. Has performed well as a return specialist.

Weaknesses: Is not improving at a steady pace. Lacks deep speed, suddenness and burst to the ball. Does not have great ball skills or make many big plays.

Bottom line: No longer has the luxury of not producing on defense. **GRADE: 6.4**

T80. Lewis Sanders, Browns

6-0 200

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent size and likes to be physical at the line of scrimmage. Can take a receiver out of his routes. Has good leaping ability.

Weaknesses: Lacks burst and quickness. Can be beaten deep. Gives up too much in the short passing game. Plays tall and a bit stiff. Missed 21 of first 32 career games because of injuries, so durability is a major question.

Bottom line: Probably is best suited for a reserve role. **GRADE: 6.4**

T80. Terrance Shaw, Raiders

5-11 200

Age: 28 8th year

Strengths: Can turn and run fairly well and is solid drag-down tackler. Can turn and run with a receiver. Is effective in zone situations.

Weaknesses: Missed several games in recent years because of injuries, so durability is a concern. Lacks change of direction ability. Doesn't show much burst in and out of cuts.

Bottom line: Provides depth but his days as a starter probably are over. **GRADE: 6.4**

T80. Dainon Sidney, Titans

6-0 188

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has good speed and can adjust to



ALBERT DICKSON / TSN

the ball when it is in the air. Has great range and awareness.

Weaknesses: Is not physical and cannot press receivers consistently at the line of scrimmage. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: A promising player who was progressing before he suffered a knee injury. Will have to fight to make any contribution this season. **GRADE: 6.4**

T80. Jason Simmons, Texans

5-9 198

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has good speed and quickness. Has good hips and can turn and run in short to intermediate routes. Is willing to throw his body around and take good angles to the ball. Is a competitive and sound player.

Weaknesses: Somewhat undersized and will struggle to hold up in deep man-to-man coverage. Is a liability on the perimeter and cannot match up with big receivers, especially in the red zone.

Bottom line: Probably never will be a starter on the outside but has the cover skills to be effective covering the slot receiver. **GRADE: 6.4**

T80. Kiwaukee Thomas, Jaguars

5-11 190

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good cover skills. Shows good ball skills when the ball is in the air. Does a nice job in a short area. Plays faster than it appears.

Weaknesses: Is not big or physical; struggles against big receivers. Gets pushed around in the running game. Takes poor angles when coming up in run support.

Bottom line: Is playing with more confidence than earlier in his career and could become a solid No. 3 or No. 4 corner in the future. Doesn't make many big plays but doesn't give up many. **GRADE: 6.4**

T80. Kenny Wright, Vikings

6-1 205

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Is physical and at his best pressing the receiver at the line of scrimmage. Has good ball skills and occasionally makes a big play. Has good speed and will cover a lot of range.

Weaknesses: Makes too many mental mistakes and will give up too many big plays. Is overaggressive at times and needs to do a better job as a tackler of breaking down and wrapping up.

Bottom line: Nickel back who has the tools to excel in this role. Must improve recognition skills and play with more discipline. **GRADE: 6.4**

T92. Taje Allen, Chiefs

5-11 185

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Smooth athlete who is best in short areas. Can break on the ball and turn and run with a nice burst and quickness.

Weaknesses: Lacks deep speed and the ability to catch up. Will try to be a physical player and mix it up but can't take a lot of hits.

Bottom line: Reserve who will compete for time in the corner rotation but can be exploited if matched up wrong. **GRADE: 6.3**

T92. Donald Mitchell, Titans

5-9 185

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good strength. Shows some man-to-man cover skills. Does a nice job of getting a bump on the receiver at the line.

Weaknesses: Suffered a serious knee injury earlier in his career and durability is major concern. Is short and undersized. Will get pushed around and does not come up with a lot of jump balls.

Bottom line: Is one of the best special teams players on the team and is versatile enough to play safety and corner. **GRADE: 6.3**

T92. Jacoby Shepherd, Texans

6-1 195

Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Flashes decent cover skills and has good athleticism. Has good feet and a nice short burst. Shows good range and can turn and run in coverage situations.

Weaknesses: Is perceived to lack aggressiveness and competitiveness. Is not physical and does not appear to pay attention to detail in terms of technique.

Bottom line: Reserve who has good size and cover skills. Won't reach potential until he starts playing with passion. **GRADE: 6.3**

T95. Pat Dennis, Cowboys

6-0 213

Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has the height, weight and physical style to jam receivers at the line and to muscle them out of their routes. Has excellent ball skills.

Weaknesses: Is not explosive out of his backpedal and is constantly attacked in the short to intermediate zone. Lacks the speed and hip flexibility to turn and run with faster receivers. Must improve his footwork and change of direction skills.

Bottom line: Has great size but needs to

improve quickness and technique.

GRADE: 6.2

T95. Jamar Fletcher, Dolphins

5-9 184

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is quick, fast, aggressive and confident. Has excellent strength. Is technically sound and does an excellent job of preparing for the next opponent.

Weaknesses: Does not have great speed but lack of size is a bigger concern. Always will be a liability in the red zone and is somewhat of a durability concern. Sometimes plays with too much confidence.

Bottom line: Had been expected to make a bigger impact as a rookie but has the confidence and intelligence to rebound this season.

GRADE: 6.2

T95. Michael Hawthorne, Saints

6-3 196

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent size. Shows good strength and the ability to press at the line of scrimmage. Is willing to play the run.

Weaknesses: Has trouble staying healthy. Lacks great all-around movement and quickness. Tends to get beat by a lot of double moves. Does not have good recovery speed.

Bottom line: Brings much-needed size and athletic skills to the position. Might play on the outside and allow the smaller Fred Thomas to move inside in the nickel and/or dime packages.

GRADE: 6.2

T95. Renaldo Hill, Cardinals

5-11 182

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good quickness and is sound in man-to-man coverage. Has good hands and a closing burst on the ball when it is in the air.

Weaknesses: Lacks size and has limited potential and experience. Doesn't have the speed to turn and run with receivers.

Bottom line: A good fit as a slot corner in nickel and dime packages because his cover skills are solid and opponents can't take advantage of his lack of size as easily.

GRADE: 6.2

T95. DeRon Jenkins, Panthers

5-11 192

Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has natural athleticism. Has good quickness out of breaks and closing speed to the ball. Has the size and speed to play on the outside.

Weaknesses: Is poor in run support and as a tackler. Will miss a lot of open-field tackles. Does not challenge for the ball in the air.

Bottom line: Will have an opportunity to challenge for a starting job because of Carolina's poor depth at cornerback. Would be a liability as a starter.

GRADE: 6.2

T95. Kevin Kaesviharn, Bengals

6-1 190

Age: 26 2nd year

Strengths: Always seems to be improving and displays excellent work ethic. Shows excellent ball skills and has the leaping ability to catch the ball at its highest point. Has good quickness and burst.

Weaknesses: Lacks recovery speed and must

keep the receiver in front of him. Does not have great hip flexibility and will struggle to turn and run with the receiver at times.

Bottom line: Reserve who should continue to improve.

GRADE: 6.2

T95. Tod McBride, Packers

6-1 205

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is physical and does good job of shoving receivers at the line. Can fight through traffic and is a good open-field tackler. Has a good burst to the ball.

Weaknesses: Struggles to turn and run with receivers, gets turned around too much and has trouble with double moves.

Bottom line: A former safety and developmental corner who has excellent size. Can cover in short area but lacks experience and ideal athletic ability.

GRADE: 6.2

T95. Michael Stone, Cardinals

5-11 189

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has explosive speed and quickness. Has an extra gear when the ball is in the air. Has a good build and is a sound open-field tackler.

Weaknesses: Agile, quick receivers can give him trouble. Can be passive. Looked lost at times as a rookie.

Bottom line: Has the physical attributes to be a good player but must become more confident in coverage.

GRADE: 6.2

T95. Jimmy Spencer, Broncos

5-9 188

Age: 33 11th year

Strengths: Has a knack for making plays in limited playing time. Is versatile enough to play on the outside or in the slot. Has starting experience.

Weaknesses: Does not have great speed and struggles to recover when caught out of position. Is a liability in the red zone because of lack of size. Is too aggressive at times. Does not contribute vs. the run.

Bottom line: A nickel corner who is on the downside of his career.

GRADE: 6.1

T104. Reggie Austin, Bears

5-9 178

Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Is fast and athletic. Has great burst and natural quickness. Shows smooth hips and the ability to turn and run and has excellent change of direction skills.

Weaknesses: Lack of height and aggressiveness are concerns. Does not have great leaping ability and is a liability in the red zone.

Bottom line: Must play with more confidence and aggressiveness. Might wind up as the team's nickel corner even if he doesn't start the season in that role.

GRADE: 6.0

T104. Rashad Holman, 49ers

5-11 191

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good agility and adequate size. Shows exceptional leaping ability and solid ball skills. Is a solid tackler who attacks the line of scrimmage in the running game.

Weaknesses: Tends to gamble and lacks the speed to recover from mistakes. Lacks ideal recognition skills and appears a step slow. Needs to improve upper-body strength and

the ability to press receivers.

Bottom line: Is a developmental No. 4 corner who has outstanding athletic ability but must improve consistency and technique.

GRADE: 6.0

T104. Fred Vinson, Panthers

5-11 180

Age: 25 3rd year



PETER NEWCOMB FOR TSN

Strengths: Is extremely quick and fast. Has good change of direction skills. Shows good catch-up speed.

Weaknesses: Biggest concern is lack of play and the effects of injuries. Lacks great ball skills. Does not match up well against bigger, more physical receivers.

Bottom line: Has spent two years away from football. If healthy, could start for Panthers as the right cornerback or the nickel back on the outside.

GRADE: 6.0

T104. Chris Watson, Bills

6-1 188

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is a physical and likes to press. Works to muscle the receiver and disrupt the route. Shows good body control and overall strength.

Weaknesses: Has trouble turning and running with quicker receivers and has trouble adjusting to double moves. Struggles in space. Has inconsistent recognition skills and gives up the big play too often.

Bottom line: Nickel back who lacks ideal ability. Will be pushed by rookie Kevin Thomas for playing time.

GRADE: 6.0

T108. Ralph Brown, Giants

5-10 185 Age: 24 3rd year

Undersized fourth cornerback who has trouble staying healthy. Changes directions well and has good speed but a disappointment overall. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Terrell Buckley, Buccaneers

5-10 180 Age: 31 8th year

Instinctive player who likes to take chances but no longer has the speed and quickness to catch up and compensate. Is crafty and should add depth. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Eric Davis, Lions

5-11 185 Age: 34 11th year

Gets by on technique. No longer can hold up on an island and is at his best when playing in zone coverage. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Ray Green, Dolphins

6-3 187 Age: 25 3rd year

Has the ability and speed to develop into a No. 4 corner. Is a huge liability in coverage until his technique and feel for the passing game improve. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Corey Harris, Chiefs

5-10 191 Age: 25 4th year

Has good speed but lacks consistent burst. Will have to fight to stay on the roster. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Jimmy Hitchcock, free agent

5-10 187 Age: 31 7th year

Started for Carolina in 2001 but his skills are declining. No longer has speed and burst to cover, so he winds up guessing too much. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Steve Israel, free agent

5-11 197 Age: 33 9th year

Teaser who never has played up to his athletic ability. No longer runs a 4.3 as advertised and lacks natural cover skills on the perimeter. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Willie Middlebrooks, Broncos

6-1 200 Age: 23 2nd year

Had been expected to make an immediate impact in Denver's nickel package but injuries prevented the 2001 first-round pick from developing as expected. The Broncos lack ideal depth at safety, and he might be a better fit there. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Alvin Porter, Ravens

5-11 175 Age: 25 2nd year

In limited playing time in 2001, he looked out of place and seemed to lack confidence. His feet and cover skills were inconsistent, but he flashed on special teams. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Coby Rhinehart, Cardinals

5-11 191 Age: 25 4th year

Has the natural tools to play the position but must improve his instincts in coverage. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Davis Sanchez, Chargers

5-10 190 Age: 28 2nd year

Physical corner and willing run supporter who lacks deep speed to cover receivers on the edge. Is a solid special teams coverage player. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Jason Suttle, Texans

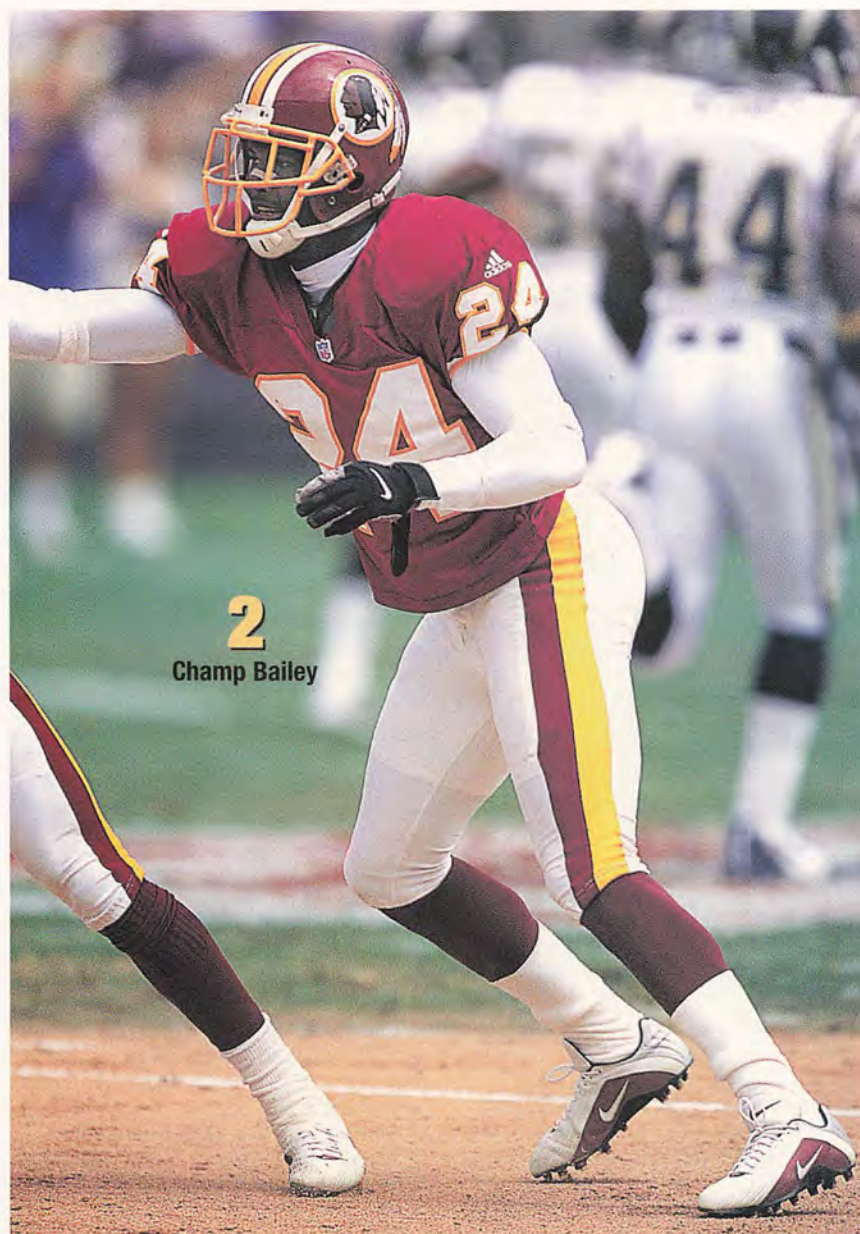
5-10 181 Age: 27 3rd year

Reserve who did not play in 2001 but started at times for the Broncos in 1999 and 2000. Will try to stick with Houston as a backup. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Dave Thomas, free agent

6-3 218 Age: 34 9th year

Is one of the biggest players at this position, but it works against him. Is a liability in space and cannot



2
Champ Bailey

JOHN CORDES FOR TSN

turn and run in man-to-man coverage. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Damen Wheeler, Jaguars

5-9 180 Age: 25 1st year

Has decent pass-coverage skills but only average overall skills. Is a try-hard player but Jacksonville could do better for a backup corner. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Jimmy Williams, 49ers

5-11 189 Age: 23 2nd year

Has good overall cover skills and can turn and run with receivers. Has decent instincts and ball skills. A player to watch. **GRADE: 5.9**

T108. Jimmy Wyrick, Lions

5-9 179 Age: 25 3rd year

Undersized and inexperienced but might get time as nickel back because of injuries. Must improve consistency and recognition skills. **GRADE: 5.9**

T125. Jerametrius Butler, Rams

5-10 181 Age: 23 2nd year

Undersized player who has good cover skills and speed. Was effective in the team's dime package

last year but will be pushed for time by rookie Travis Fisher. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Renard Cox, Jaguars

6-0 191 Age: 24 2nd year

Bounced around the league with three teams the past two years without being given much of a chance to show what he can do. It's likely not much. A try-hard guy but someone who struggles in man coverage. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Clifton Crosby, Colts

5-10 172 Age: 27 3rd year

Does an excellent job on cover teams but isn't big enough to play the run and is a liability vs. big receivers. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Cedric Donaldson, Dolphins

5-9 180 Age: 23 2nd year

Must improve technique, consistency and discipline in the passing game to get time at cornerback. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Darrien Gordon, Packers

5-11 190 Age: 31 8th year
His skills are rapidly declining. No longer has the speed to turn and run with quality receivers and cannot recover when he is beaten. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Emmanuel McDaniel, free agent

5-9 180 Age: 30 6th year
No longer seems to have the quickness and feet to play man-to-man coverage. Is adequate in zone. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Todd McMillon, Bears

5-11 182 Age: 28 3rd year
Has good size, is aggressive and likes to play physical in coverage but does not have great natural instincts. Main contributions will be on special teams. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Paul Miranda, Seahawks

5-10 178 Age: 26 4th year
A fringe talent who has marginal size but great speed. Would be a No. 4 or No. 5 cornerback on many rosters, but there are too many bodies in Seattle's secondary for him to fit in. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Earthwind Moreland, Browns

5-11 185 Age: 25 3rd year
Still in developmental stage as a defensive back. Not a physical tackler but does a good job of wrapping up. Lacks overall cover skills but his speed, vision and open-field moves make him a kick-return prospect. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Anthony Parker, 49ers

6-1 200 Age: 26 4th year
Has been injured and has a rap of not fighting to get back into the lineup. Does not play as fast as speed indicates and shows marginal catch-up skills. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Tony Scott, free agent

5-10 193 Age: 25 3rd year
Must make his mark on special teams. Has decent athletic ability but doesn't play with much confidence or instincts in coverage. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Kato Serwanga, Redskins

6-0 202 Age: 26 4th year
Excellent special teams player who is quicker than fast. Lacks great catch-up speed but has good ball skills. Production will come covering kicks. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Keith Thibodeaux, Packers

5-11 189 Age: 28 5th year
Lacks great cover skills, quickness and speed, but takes good angles to the ball and has good overall instincts. **GRADE: 5.8**

T125. Darrick Vaughn, Falcons

5-11 193 Age: 23 3rd year
Is a better kick returner than a cornerback. Has a lot of the necessary skills but lacks the feel and confidence of a cover corner. **GRADE: 5.8**

T138. Jason Bell, Cowboys

6-0 182 Age: 24 2nd year
Tall and rangy and is excellent on cover teams. Led the Cowboys in 2001 in special teams tackles. But he lacks quick feet and the ability to turn and run. **GRADE: 5.7**

T138. Michael Booker, free agent

6-2 200 Age: 27 4th year
Was a backup for the Titans last season, but his skills have faded quickly. His catch-up speed and man-to-man cover skills are a liability on the perimeter. **GRADE: 5.7**

T138. Rodregis Brooks, Colts

5-9 184 Age: 24 3rd year
Up-and-down player who has missed time because

of nagging injuries and lacks great technique and deep speed in man-to-man coverage. **GRADE: 5.7**

T138. William Hampton, Eagles

5-10 190 Age: 27 2nd year
Is a short-area zone player who has better quickness than speed. Cannot turn and run with quality receivers and cannot close on the ball. **GRADE: 5.7**

T138. Lloyd Harrison, Chargers

5-10 190 Age: 25 2nd year
Had offseason knee surgery and may struggle to come back 100 percent. Doesn't have a lot of confidence in coverage and gives up too many big plays. **GRADE: 5.7**

T138. Jamie Henderson, Jets

6-2 202 Age: 23 2nd year
Might be a better fit at safety. Will start season as the No. 4 corner. Has great potential but if progress falters, should be moved to safety because he would be excellent in run support. **GRADE: 5.7**

T138. Reggie Howard, Panthers

6-0 190 Age: 25 3rd year
Is a good tackler and a solid special team contributor, which makes him a good value as a No. 4 cornerback as he continues to improve. **GRADE: 5.7**

T138. George McCullough, free agent

5-10 187 Age: 27 3rd year
Was a backup for the 49ers last season but never has played to potential. Has some cover skills but doesn't always seem natural and instinctive. Contribution on special teams gives him value. **GRADE: 5.7**

146. Dwayne Goodrich, Cowboys

5-11 200 Age: 24 3rd year
Missed last season because of an Achilles' tendon injury. Has the size, strength and speed to develop into a productive corner. **GRADE: 5.6**

T147. Leonard Myers, Patriots

5-10 195 Age: 23 2nd year
Good competitor who gives solid effort but does not have great cover skills nor many developmental qualities, including speed. **GRADE: 5.5**

T147. Brock Williams, Patriots

5-9 189 Age: 23 2nd year
Missed 2001 rookie season because of a knee injury. Biggest challenges will be return from injury and to translate speed and athleticism into consistency. **GRADE: 5.5**

149. Corey Ivy, Buccaneers

5-8 183 Age: 25 1st year
Undersized but has good speed and quickness. Offers little help against the run. Is an emergency fill-in to cover slot receivers. **GRADE: 5.4**

150. Nick Harper, Colts

5-10 184 Age: 28 2nd year
Has good athleticism but doesn't make many big plays. Will experience growing pains in the nickel back role. **GRADE: 5.1**

on the ball and will come up to defend the run. Is a good open-field tackler who has excellent footwork and little wasted motion.

Weaknesses: Lacks great deep speed. Will gamble at times and sometimes isn't able to recover. Needs to improve technique.

Bottom line: Enters the league as an almost complete corner. Should play at a high level for many years. **GRADE: 9.7**

2. Phillip Buchanon, Raiders

5-10 186 Miami (Fla.), 1st round

Strengths: Has great ball skills, excellent speed and quickness. Plays with a lot of confidence. Can turn and run with any wide receiver. Is an excellent leaper who has outstanding hands.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size for a cornerback, particularly height. Might have problems vs. taller or more physical receivers in the red zone. Is adequate against the run but is not a physical tackler.

Bottom line: Might not start right away for the Raiders, but it's only a matter of time. **GRADE: 9.5**

3. Keyuo Craver, Saints

5-10 195 Nebraska, 4th round

Strengths: Has good speed. Shows excellent footwork and ability to run with receivers. Is explosive out of his breaks. Makes a lot of plays while the ball is in the air. Has tremendous leaping ability. Has a good feel for the position.

Weaknesses: Takes a lot of chances. Lacks great height. Health and durability are big concerns. Becomes overconfident and gives up big plays.

Bottom line: Likely will be brought along slowly. Has experience returning punts and blocking kicks and will have an impact on special teams. **GRADE: 9.3**

4. Lito Sheppard, Eagles

5-10 194 Florida, 1st round

Strengths: Has outstanding quickness. Hips are fluid and he shows the ability to turn and run with most receivers. Is aggressive. Will take some chances and is extremely confident. Displays great ball skills and good leaping ability. Has outstanding burst and closing speed. Is an efficient open-field tackler.

Weaknesses: Will give up the big play while trying to bait quarterbacks from time to time. Is undersized, isn't an impact player against the run and will struggle against bigger and stronger receivers in the red zone.

Bottom line: Will challenge for the nickel job immediately. Look for him eventually to replace Troy Vincent in the lineup. Has the combination of cover skills and athleticism to become a shutdown corner. **GRADE: 9.2**

5. Derek Ross, Cowboys

5-10 210 Ohio State, 3rd round

Strengths: Frequently played press coverage in college and rarely gave up a big play. Has good leaping ability and great playmaking

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Quentin Jammer, Chargers

5-11 204 Texas, 1st round

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Is outstanding in bump-and-run coverage and has excellent techniques. Gets a great jump

skills. Is an aggressive tackler who likes to hit.
Weaknesses: Lacks strength and gets pushed around by more physical receivers. Tends to get too high when forced to turn and run with the receiver. Has durability and character concerns.

Bottom line: Will push for playing time as a rookie. At worst, will be a raw nickel corner.

GRADE: 9.0

6. Mike Rumph, 49ers

6-2 205 Miami (Fla.), 1st round

Strengths: Possesses good combination of size and speed. Shows adequate hands, times jumps well and flashes big-play potential. Is best in press coverage. Is aggressive against the run.

Weaknesses: Gets caught out of position at times and has too many mental lapses. Also will miss some open-field tackles.

Bottom line: Physical, tough, cover corner who eventually will replace Jason Webster as a starter. Likely will be the team's No. 3 corner until he improves his consistency and technique.

GRADE: 8.9

7. Sheldon Brown, Eagles

5-10 196 South Carolina, 2nd round

Strengths: Possesses ideal instincts, speed and burst. Excels in the open field. Has very good recognition skills, is technically sound and rarely is caught out of position.

Weaknesses: Lacks the size to match up consistently against bigger receivers and is a liability in the red zone.

Bottom line: Playmaking No. 5 corner who isn't likely to contribute much this season because of the Eagles' depth at corner. Has the cover skills and explosiveness eventually to take over as the nickel back.

GRADE: 8.6

8. Roosevelt Williams, Bears

5-11 204 Tuskegee, 3rd round

Strengths: A raw athlete who has good size. Is smooth and has good body control. Shows outstanding leaping ability on jump balls. Flashed good hands and ball skills in college. Is aggressive and will help against the run.

Weaknesses: Has below average straight-line speed. Has trouble locating the ball in the air downfield and appears to lose bearings when forced to turn and run.

Bottom line: Small-school player who eventually could give Chicago much-needed size at corner. Will push for playing time in nickel package this season but needs time to develop recognition skills and instincts.

GRADE: 8.2

9. Andre Goodman, Lions

5-10 182 South Carolina, 3rd round

Has made remarkable comeback from a major knee injury in 1998. Has regained confidence and aggressive style. Has above-average cover skills, body control, burst and speed.

GRADE: 7.9

10. Rashad Bauman, Redskins

5-8 186 Oregon, 3rd round

Is a confident, aggressive playmaker who has exceptional quickness and good straight-line speed. Shows good hip flexibility and can turn and run with the receiver. Lack of height limits potential, and there are durability concerns. Has a chance to be groomed as Darrell Green's replacement at nickel back and should contribute immediately on special teams.

GRADE: 7.7

11. Mike Echols, Titans

5-10 190 Wisconsin, 4th round

An undersized corner who flashes the ability to develop into a shutdown nickel back but will not become a starter on the outside because of his lack of size.

GRADE: 7.5

12. Andre Lott, Redskins

5-10 194 Tennessee, 5th round

Developmental player with excellent speed. Aggressive against the run but inconsistent and takes too many false steps. Bounced back and forth between safety and corner in college, never getting comfortable at one position. Needs at least a year to adjust and improve technique but has the tools to develop into a starter.

GRADE: 7.2

13. Joseph Jefferson, Colts

5-11 205 Western Kentucky, 3rd round

Has ideal measurable skills and succeeds at pressing receivers and getting physical against the run. Lacks lateral quickness and struggles at changing directions in coverage. Has a lot of upside from a physical standpoint.

GRADE: 6.4

14. Kris Richard, Seahawks

5-11 186 Southern California, 3rd round

Has good strength despite average size and good height and can match up against big receivers. Plays with confidence and appears to have regained his speed after enduring hamstring and knee injuries in college. Should get an opportunity to challenge for playing time in the Seahawks' dime packages.

GRADE: 6.2

15. Tony Beckham, Titans

6-1 195 Wisconsin-Stout, 4th round

Has a good combination of size and athletic ability. Is a former wide receiver who has soft hands and good overall ball skills. Will make his biggest contribution on special teams while pushing for playing time in nickel and dime packages.

GRADE: 4.5

16. Dante Wesley, Panthers

6-0 211 Arkansas-Pine Bluff, 4th round

Looks like a safety and might need to move there to play in the NFL. Will get an initial look at cornerback and could push for a starting job in the nickel and/or dime packages.

GRADE: 3.5

T17. Lavar Glover, Steelers

5-9 175 Cincinnati, 7th round

Could help Pittsburgh as a cover corner against slot receiver, but the Steelers will have to consciously avoid placing him in situations where lack of size—height and bulk—can be exploited.

GRADE: 3.0

T17. Omare Lowe, Dolphins

6-0 196 Washington, 5th round

Plays with aggression but lacks the cover skills of an NFL cornerback. Should be moved to safety.

GRADE: 3.0

T17. Mel Mitchell, Saints

6-1 220 Western Kentucky, 5th round

Has the size/speed ratio to develop into a starter but needs at least a year of experience before he can contribute on defense. Aggressiveness helps make him ideal for special teams cover units.

GRADE: 3.0

T17. Keyon Nash, Raiders

6-3 215 Albany State, 6th round

Has good size and athletic ability but needs repetitions. Could stick as a developmental-type player but must contribute on special teams.

GRADE: 3.0

T17. Steve Smith, Jaguars

6-1 190 Oregon, 7th round

Does not have the speed, hips or man-to-man skills to turn and run with wide receivers as a cornerback. Lacks the size and physical nature to play safety.

GRADE: 3.0

T17. Tim Wansley, Buccaneers

5-8 180 Georgia, 7th round

Tough player who has good ball skills. Too small to match up on the outside.

GRADE: 3.0

23. Chris Cash, Lions

5-11 170 Southern California, 6th round

Might get some time in the nickel role but lacks height and speed. Will be a target.

GRADE: 2.1

T24. Demarcus Faggins, Texans

5-10 178 Kansas State, 6th round

Has good athletic ability and short-area burst but is inconsistent, lacks speed and is undersized. Must make a significant contribution on special teams.

GRADE: 2.0

T24. Travis Fisher, Rams

5-10 189 Central Florida, 2nd round

Developmental player who has the natural cover skills and pure speed to develop into a quality nickel back with improved technique and time.

GRADE: 2.0

T24. Brad Franklin, Panthers

6-0 186 Louisiana-Lafayette, 7th round

A height, weight and speed prospect who has upside. Has long legs and has trouble turning and running with wide receivers.

GRADE: 2.0

T24. Teddy Gaines, 49ers

5-11 165 Tennessee, 7th round

Physical corner who possesses a good combination of size, strength and speed but has trouble changing directions.

GRADE: 2.0

T24. Ralph Hunter, Cowboys

6-2 202 Virginia Union, 5th round

Has good combination of size and speed but will need at least a year to develop.

GRADE: 2.0

T24. CB Eric Joyce, Cardinals

5-9 194 Tennessee State, undrafted free agent

Undersized player who holds up in the slot but struggles against bigger receivers on the outside or downfield.

GRADE: 2.0

T24. Brian Williams, Vikings

5-11 207 NC State, 4th round

Big, physical reserve who is aggressive in run support. A solid special teams contributor who might be a better fit at safety.

GRADE: 2.0

a very intense, competitive player who will fly to the ball to make a play.

Weaknesses: Does not have great flexibility. Is not an ideal man-to-man cover safety. Shows some wasted motion on his turns.

Bottom line: A perfect fit in New England's cover 2 schemes and one of the most intimidating safeties in the NFL. **GRADE: 9.0**

T4. Darren Sharper, Packers

6-2 205 Age: 26 6th year

Strengths: A fluid athlete who shows good range in the middle of the field. Has good height, long arms and good hands. Can turn and run with receivers. Is intelligent, knows angles and has good mechanics and excellent diagnostic skills. Is versatile and comfortable playing close to the line. Has learned to fight through traffic and is capable of making plays sideline to sideline. Is excellent in pursuit. Does a good job of tackling in the open field.

Weaknesses: Is not a big hitter. Struggles to shed blocks once he is engaged. Does not have the size to play close to the line of scrimmage consistently.

Bottom line: Few safeties in the league possess his combination of size and athleticism. He did not have one of his better seasons last year. **GRADE: 9.0**

T6. Rodney Harrison, Chargers

6-1 218 Age: 29 9th year

Strengths: Has great size and strength and above-average speed. Is great against the run and good against the pass when the ball is in front of him. Takes good angles to the ball and is a big-time hitter.

Weaknesses: Is not great in space and plays a bit stiff. Struggles in man coverage and overplays on fakes because of his aggressive nature. Has been hampered by nagging injuries.

Bottom line: If used correctly, he can be an intimidating force against the run and in zone coverage. **GRADE: 8.0**

T6. Sammy Knight, Saints

6-0 205 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has good ball and recognition skills. Can take on blockers at the point of attack. Can cut off the short pass. Explosive tackler who rarely misses. Is strong.

Weaknesses: Is limited by lack of speed and physical tools. Is a liability in deep zone

coverage. Must be protected near the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Should fare a lot better in the Saints' new defensive scheme. New coordinator Rick Venturi plans to use Knight inside the box, which will work to his strengths. **GRADE: 8.0**

T6. Darren Woodson, Cowboys

6-1 219 Age: 33 10th year

Strengths: Has a tremendous combination of size and speed, and plays with great intensity. Shows excellent strength and short-area power. Is most comfortable playing close to the line. Is aggressive against the run and has the ability to run over people. Rarely misses a tackle and makes plays in the open field. Has good change of direction skills and instincts.

Weaknesses: Age and durability are concerns. Does not show the big-play flair he once did. Is no longer great in man-to-man coverage, and his inability to cover over the middle of the field is a big concern.

Bottom line: Is still one of the top strong safeties in the league but is not the player he used to be. **GRADE: 8.0**

9. Mike Brown, Bears

5-10 203 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has a solid build and is powerful. Is aggressive and physical. Plays with great instincts. Shows good reaction skills and takes few false steps. Takes good angles to the ball and does not miss many open-field tackles.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal size for a safety and has had some concussion problems. Lack of height is a problem in coverage at times. Doesn't have fluid hips or the ability to turn and run with receivers.

Bottom line: Productive starter who makes up for physical limitations with instincts and aggressiveness. **GRADE: 7.9**

10. Kwamie Lassiter, Cardinals

6-0 203 Age: 32 8th year

Strengths: Is always in great shape and is an excellent center field-type who has good natural ball skills. Is an adequate wrap-up tackler and is best when playing the deep half of the field or center field in cover 2.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size or speed. Lacks the hip flexibility to turn and run with receivers and lacks good man-to-man cover skills. Is not physical against the run.

Bottom line: Big-play ability, leadership and experience are reasons the Cardinals overlooked age when re-signing him in offseason. **GRADE: 7.8**

T11. Arturo Freeman, Dolphins

6-0 196 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Shows good change of direction skills. Has good athletic ability and has been durable. Is aggressive and likes to come up and play the run. Has shown flashes of being able to generate pressure off the blitz.

Weaknesses: Must be more consistent in technique and reads. Needs to be backed off and allowed to play more of a center-field type role. Has playmaking skills but has not made many plays.

Bottom line: Appears to be ready to take next step and become an effective starter. Will have the benefit of playing in an experienced, talented secondary behind what should be an improved pass rush. **GRADE: 7.7**

T11. Lance Schulters, Titans

6-2 207 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Shows the ability to play close to the line of scrimmage. Is a physical player who isn't afraid to throw his body around. Shows the ability to deliver the big hit. Is versatile enough to play strong safety and free safety. Shows good overall quickness.

Weaknesses: Has had problems with reoccurring shoulder injury. Does not have great size or speed. Is not a big playmaker in coverage.

Bottom line: Is learning a new defensive scheme and durability is a concern, but he should help improve the Titans' run and pass defense if he stays healthy. **GRADE: 7.7**

T13. Blaine Bishop, Eagles

5-9 203 Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Shows excellent range for a strong safety and does a good job of adjusting to the ball in the air. Has good short-area quickness and can plant and burst to the ball. Is an explosive and physical tackler who constantly makes plays against the run.

Weaknesses: Recognition and communication skills are marginal at times. Lacks ideal size. Is aging and coming off a season-ending ankle injury.

Bottom line: Undersized four-time Pro Bowl player who is versatile enough to stuff the run and cover the deep half of the field. But

ON THE RISE: Mike Brown, Bears

He doesn't have great speed, but he is smart, has excellent instincts, understands the Bears' scheme and has a knack for making clutch plays.

ON THE DECLINE: Damien Robinson, Jets

He struggled last season with his transition from the Buccaneers to the Jets and had some off-field problems. If he isn't better this season, he could be replaced.

SLEEPER: Adrian Wilson, Cardinals

The loss of defensive leader Pat Tillman was tough for the team to take, but Wilson's size, speed and power soon could make him one of the league's best.

UNREALIZED POTENTIAL: Arturo Freeman, Dolphins

He has good athleticism and can deliver big hits, but he is too aggressive at times. If Freeman plays with more discipline this season, he'll be productive.

BEST RUN DEFENDER: Rodney Harrison, Chargers

He didn't put up great numbers in 2001 because of the secondary's struggles. But the unit should be improved this season, so Harrison should be more aggressive.

BEST RANGE: Shaun Williams, Giants

He has the size, speed and athleticism to cover a lot of ground in the run and pass games, though he may struggle this season without Sam Gaines at strong safety.

BEST BLITZER: Rodney Harrison, Chargers

He shows excellent anticipation skills and has the closing burst, overall speed and big-hit ability to be a factor every time he blitzes.

BEST IN MAN-TO-MAN COVERAGE: Victor Green, Patriots

He gives up some big plays because of mental mistakes, but he makes up for them with his ability to turn and run with backs, tight ends and slot receivers.

he has serious durability concerns and must rebound from the ankle injury. **GRADE: 7.6**

T13. Zack Bronson, 49ers

6-1 201

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Shows the ability to cover ground when the ball is in the air and always has been technically sound. Has excellent recognition skills and good size. Plays with a non-stop motor and is relentless in pursuit. Displays improved tackling skills and does a good job of wrapping up in the open field. Showed improved ball skills last season.

Weaknesses: Missed significant time with a neck injury two years ago. Has just adequate athletic ability and speed.

Bottom line: Starting free safety who uses intelligence and technique to mask weaknesses. Is coming off a career year but must continue to be efficient in coverage to compensate for Tony Parrish's lack of ability in that area. **GRADE: 7.6**

T13. Kim Herring, Rams

6-0 200

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is technically sound and does not make a lot of mistakes. Shows good quickness and burst to the ball. Has good range in zone coverage. Can get to the sideline consistently. Does a nice job of covering the deep half of the field in the Rams' zone scheme. Is a dependable tackler who is solid in run support.

Weaknesses: Can't afford to make mistakes in coverage because he lacks pure speed. Lacks ideal ball skills and is not a big playmaker.

Bottom line: Experienced and reliable safety who lacks explosiveness but is an ideal fit in this zone scheme. Helps make up for a lot of mistakes that players make in front of him. **GRADE: 7.6**

T13. Reggie Tongue, Seahawks

6-0 203

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Is physical against the run and an exceptional presence in the middle of the field against the pass. Has good size. Can be a punishing hitter. Has the closing speed to cut off a lot of plays along the sideline.

Weaknesses: Has trouble turning and running. Tends to be too aggressive at times and doesn't show consistent recognition skills against the pass. Is not a sure tackler.

Bottom line: Is not a great talent but was a solid starter for the Seahawks last season. **GRADE: 7.6**

17. Tony Parrish, 49ers

6-0 210

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Shows good power and is aggressive against the run. Does a great job of fighting through blocks and always seems to be around the ball. Is an excellent open-field tackler who shows the ability to chase down plays from behind. Has adequate speed to contribute in underneath zone coverage.

Weaknesses: Is a liability in coverage when given too much responsibility. Is overaggressive at times and will bite on play fakes. Lacks good recovery speed.

Bottom line: Physical, run-stuffing strong safety who is most comfortable playing close



Lawyer Milloy

MARK BOLTON FOR TSN

to the line. Should improve the 49ers' run defense but does not offer much in coverage. **GRADE: 7.5**

T18. Idrees Bashir, Colts

6-2 198

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and speed. Can cover tight ends in man-to-man coverage. Can help in run support. Can make the big hit. Rarely misses a tackle.

Weaknesses: Is not a big playmaker and lacks ideal ball skills. Must improve reaction skills. Often allows the big play.

Bottom line: A good fit for the Colts' scheme because of his range. With continued progress, he should develop into one of the better safeties in the league. **GRADE: 7.4**

T18. Rogers Beckett, Chargers

6-3 205

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is a good athlete who has excellent size, range and speed. Plays a tough, physical style. Is effective on inside running plays and is a solid open-field tackler. Gets off blocks and navigates traffic.

Weaknesses: Lacks the burst, speed and range desired in a free safety. Is not fluid and struggles in man coverage. Might be better suited to play strong safety.

Bottom line: Is a solid, dependable player who has become productive in the Chargers' defense. **GRADE: 7.4**

T18. Tebucky Jones, Patriots

6-2 220

Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has outstanding physical tools,

including size, speed and athleticism. Will intimidate receivers over the middle and force turnovers. Has excellent range. Is very effective when there is a clear path to ball. Contributes on all cover teams.

Weaknesses: Struggles in and out of his cuts and does not change directions very well. Needs to take good angles to the ball to make the play. Struggles in space. Lacks ideal man-to-man cover skills.

Bottom line: Is an emerging player who benefits greatly from the protections afforded by New England's cover 2 scheme. **GRADE: 7.4**

T18. Mike Minter, Panthers

5-10 188

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent speed and overall quickness. Has good change of direction skills. Can match up with receivers in the slot. Will not make many mental mistakes. Will challenge for the ball.

Weaknesses: Does not have great ball skills. Will miss too many open-field tackles. Lacks the size and strength to match up consistently in the box.

Bottom line: Is the leader of the Panthers' defense and plays with great intensity. **GRADE: 7.4**

T18. Jerome Woods, Chiefs

6-2 207

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent overall size and good athletic ability. Has quick feet and the ability to turn and run. Very effective when playing center field and showing range. Will close quickly on the ball and forces turnovers with big hits.

Weaknesses: Will miss some tackles in the open field and has had problems adjusting on the move. Is a straight-line player.

Bottom line: Starter who will blow a few plays, but overall a solid player the Chiefs can live with. **GRADE: 7.4**

T23. Adam Archuleta, Rams

5-11 209

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is an extremely physical player who has excellent awareness and recognition skills. Does a very good job of attacking the line of scrimmage in run support. Breaks well on the ball and shows good burst in and out of cuts.

Weaknesses: Battled through a concussion and ankle injuries last season. Does not have great technique in coverage. Can be overaggressive at times when the ball is in the air. Must learn to go after the ball rather than the receiver.

Bottom line: Second-year starter and former college linebacker who has an excellent combination of speed, strength and agility. Should get better with experience and if he stays healthy. **GRADE: 7.3**

T23. Robert Griffith, Browns

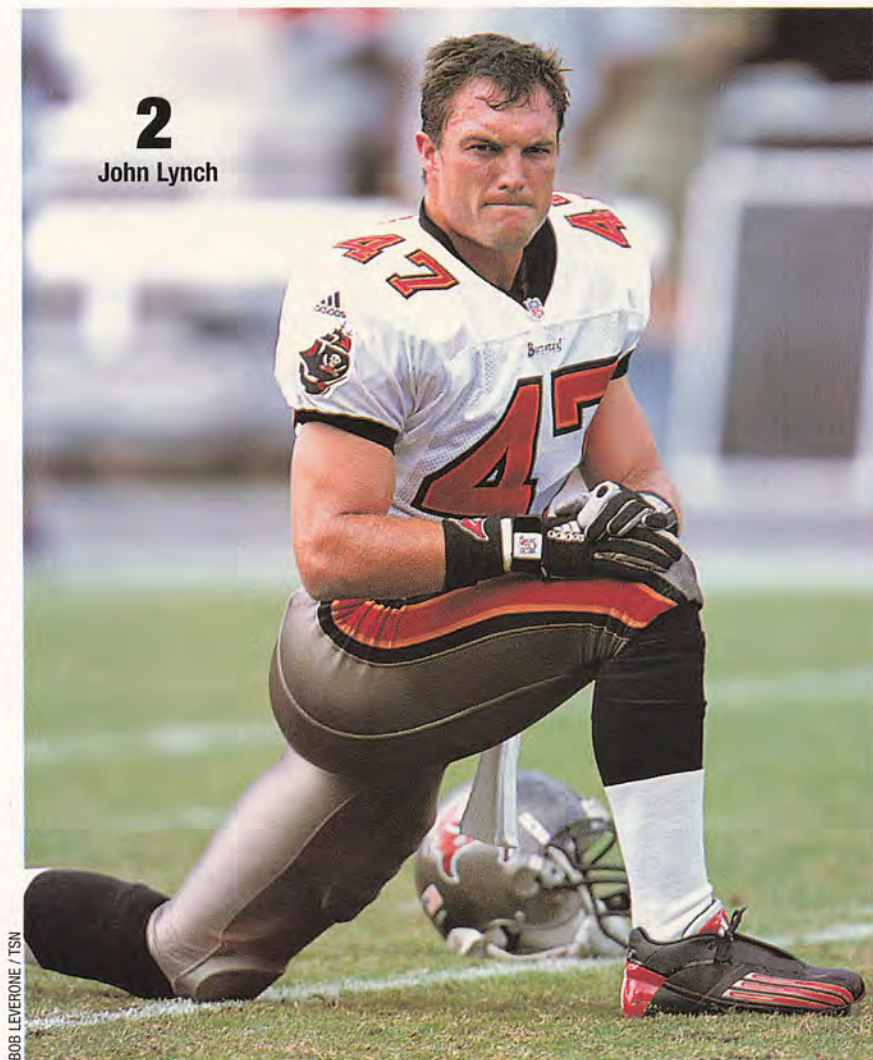
5-11 198

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Is a powerful run defender who likes to mix it up. Is an intimidating presence. Plays his best close to the line of scrimmage. Plays with a mean streak. Has excellent awareness. Has great combination of speed

2

John Lynch



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

and smarts. Is an excellent tackler. Will make a lot of big plays.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size for a physical player. Struggles when isolated man to man. Does not have great range in zone coverage. Age and durability are becoming concerns.

Bottom line: Will provide much-needed leadership in the Cleveland secondary and patrol the middle of the field. **GRADE: 7.3**

T23. Greg Wesley, Chiefs

6-2 208 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Is a big-time hitter who takes a lot of pride in collisions. Can turn a game around with a big hit. Has excellent overall size, can create turnovers with tackling ability and loves to mix it up. Is at his best against the run and dropping into zones.

Weaknesses: Has marginal change of direction skills. Is not a player who can be called on consistently in man-to-man coverage situations.

Bottom line: Is a starter who can be very effective and gives the Chiefs a tougher personality and attitude. **GRADE: 7.3**

T26. Jay Bellamy, Saints

5-11 200 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has good speed. Can get to the sideline in zone coverage. Can match up in some man-to-man situations. Is aggressive and has good size and strength. Comes up and fills in run support.

Weaknesses: Has inconsistent range. Gives up some big plays because of false steps and poor angles. Is inconsistent as a tackler. Takes poor angles at times in run support. Is over-aggressive.

Bottom line: Is an average free safety. Plays a deep center field, keeping everything in front of him. Versatility is a strength, which means he should be able to handle his new role. **GRADE: 7.2**

T26. Lamar Campbell, Lions

5-11 183 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Can play free and strong safety. Excels in run support. Is more comfortable close to the line. Is a reliable tackler. Shows good range and decent instincts.

Weaknesses: Is not great in man coverage; lacks the speed to cover most quality

wideouts and does not run with receivers.

Bottom line: Reserve run-stuffing safety who lacks size and strength but makes valuable contributions on special teams. **GRADE: 7.2**

T26. Donovan Darius, Jaguars

6-1 216 Age: 27 5th year

Strengths: Has good size, great speed and good instincts. Does a great job against the run. A physical tackler who holds up well at the point of attack.

Weaknesses: Tends to struggle in coverage. Gambles at times and gets caught out of position, resulting in big plays for the opposition.

Bottom line: Never seemed to get in a groove last season, partly because of a hip injury. **GRADE: 7.2**

T26. Lee Flowers, Steelers

6-0 214 Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Is a physical player who has good overall size and plays bigger than he is. Has good instincts and is effective vs. the run. Explosive tackler who will challenge fullbacks at point on isolation blocks. Can break on the ball, and is at his best when inside the box.

Weaknesses: Is not very good in man-to-man coverage. Lacks discipline and has been known to bite on play-action fakes. Can be nicked a bit by aggressive style of play.

Bottom line: Is a good player but a one-dimensional safety. Teams pick on him in pass situations because of his aggressiveness against the run. Durability is always a question because of his physical style. **GRADE: 7.2**

T26. Kenoy Kennedy, Broncos

6-1 215 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has great size and strength. Takes good angles to the ballcarrier. Is a reliable tackler who does a good job of wrapping up. Always is fighting to the ball. Can deliver the big hit and separate the receiver from the ball.

Weaknesses: Does not have great ball skills and will not make a lot of big plays. Will struggle to recover when making a mistake. Lacks ideal footwork.

Bottom line: A good run-stuffer who needs to work on his coverage skills. Has the potential to develop into one of league's better safeties. **GRADE: 7.2**

T26. Marlon McCree, Jaguars

5-11 192 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Is a good athlete who runs well. Takes good angles to ball. Has good range and can cover a lot of ground. Is dependable. Shows good man-to-man cover skills.

Weaknesses: Is not physical and lacks great size. Struggles in coverage on deep routes.

Bottom line: Started 11 games as a rookie last season and was solid but never will be a great player. **GRADE: 7.2**

T26. Marcus Robertson, Seahawks

5-11 211 Age: 32 12th year

Strengths: Instincts and football intelligence

are outstanding. Has a great feel for the passing game. Terrific at getting his teammates lined up in the proper position.

Weaknesses: Has lost a step and his quickness and change of direction skills are diminishing. Does not hold up at the point of attack against running games.

Bottom line: An overrated player who is on the downside of his career. Won't give up many big plays but won't make many, either.

GRADE: 7.2

T26. Brian Walker, Lions

6-1 205

Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has range and is aggressive.

Attacks the line of scrimmage. Makes plays against the run. Can deliver big hits.

Weaknesses: Misses open-field tackles while trying to make big plays. Is somewhat stiff and can't cover slot receivers man-to-man. Doesn't change direction well.

Bottom line: Free-agent addition who needs time to adjust to this system. Lacks ideal cover skills. Teams with Corey Harris to form one of the league's hardest-hitting safety tandems.

GRADE: 7.2

T34. Sam Garnes, Jets

6-3 225

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has good size and strength. Does a good job of breaking down and wrapping up in the open field. Does not get caught out of position. Rarely misses a tackle. Shows the ability to play through pain.

Weaknesses: Struggles to run with the receiver. Doesn't show great range. Does not show the ability to match up in most man-to-man situations. Doesn't make a lot of big plays in coverage.

Bottom line: Is excellent in run support and intimidates receivers who try to come over the middle. Is a liability in coverage and must be protected.

GRADE: 7.1

T34. Deon Grant, Panthers

6-2 207

Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Shows good range and instincts in coverage. Has very good hands and ball skills. Has excellent leaping ability and is aggressive when the ball is in the air.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve in coverage. Does not contribute in run support. Will miss too many open-field tackles. Needs to improve his overall tackling skills in the running and passing games.

Bottom line: Misses too many open-field tackles to keep a starting job.

GRADE: 7.1

T36. Brent Alexander, Steelers

5-11 200

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: An experienced center fielder-type safety who has good instincts, ball skills and leadership. Makes all the secondary calls, putting himself and others in good position. Reads and reacts very well. Has adequate zone skills and always appears to be around the ball.

Weaknesses: Lacks big-play ability. Is not a premier athlete at free safety and lacks overall size. Is not very physical and is a poor

tackler in space. Is not adept in man-to-man situations; he should not be isolated on island or in space.

Bottom line: Excels as a freelance free safety. Is a coach on the field for the secondary and benefits from great play up front.

GRADE: 7.0

T36. Cory Bird, Colts

5-10 216

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size and quickness. Can step up and make the big hit. Almost never misses a tackle he should make. Has good work ethic and desire to improve. Has soft hands. Is comfortable playing close to the line of scrimmage.

Weaknesses: At times is overaggressive.

Struggles in man-to-man coverage. Must play with more discipline. Durability is a concern.

Bottom line: An excellent athlete who is physical enough to develop into a good strong safety.

GRADE: 7.0

T36. Derrick Gibson, Raiders

6-2 215

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has all the physical tools desired in a safety, including size, speed and strength. Is an outstanding cover player who has burst and closing speed. Is a strong, powerful open-field tackler.

Weaknesses: Developed slowly as a rookie last season. Appeared raw and inconsistent at times, taking too many false steps and lacking discipline. Will give up some big plays.

Bottom line: Has the skills to become a great player; the Raiders hope the arrival of veteran Rod Woodson will spur him on.

GRADE: 7.0

T36. Victor Green, Patriots

5-11 210

Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Is aggressive and has a nose for the ball. Always is around the tackle and makes a lot of plays around the line of scrimmage. Is solid in zone coverage, where he doesn't have to cover too much ground.

Weaknesses: Will struggle in man-to-man coverage; has some trouble turning and running. Will guess a lot and make some mental mistakes.

Bottom line: Is reuniting with coach Bill Belichick, which should improve his play. Is a crafty player who should have a solid season.

GRADE: 7.0

T36. Corey Harris, Lions

5-11 200

Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Is a big hitter who is most comfortable playing close to the line. Is a good open-field tackler.

Weaknesses: Free-agent addition who is learning a new system. Lacks ability to change direction and doesn't turn and run in man-to-man coverage. Has straight-line speed but lacks athleticism. Only adequate in zone coverage.

Bottom line: Never will be great in coverage but is tough and explosive against the run. Attacks receivers who come over the middle.

GRADE: 7.0

T36. Brock Marion, Dolphins

5-11 205

Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Has elite diagnostic and recognition skills. Rarely is caught out of position and has outstanding instincts. Does a nice job keeping the play in front of him. Has adequate size and speed and good athletic ability.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal change of direction skills. Must regain technique and do a better job of wrapping up in the open field. Is not as strong against the run as in the past. Lacks explosiveness to the ball. Durability is a concern. Speed and range are in decline.

Bottom line: Is on the downside of his career but should have another productive season.

GRADE: 7.0

T36. Rod Woodson, Raiders

6-0 205

Age: 37 15th year

Strengths: Still has very good range and outstanding hands. Is excellent in zone coverage. Leadership skills, instincts and knowledge of game are first-rate. Has been very durable throughout career.

Weaknesses: Lacks deep speed. Does not have impressive burst in the open field and is not a sound tackler in space. Puts himself in bad positions when forced to gamble to cover for diminishing athletic ability.

Bottom line: Senior member of one of the league's most talented secondaries.

GRADE: 7.0

T43. Mike Green, Bears

6-0 185

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is aggressive and mixes it up with running backs. Has good short-area burst and closing speed. Takes solid angles to the ball and is a powerful tackler.

Weaknesses: There is concern about durability and his ability to hold up as a full-time starter. Lacks the bulk and strength to hold up near the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Has the cover skills to excel in the Bears' scheme.

GRADE: 6.9

T43. Cory Hall, Bengals

6-0 213

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good build and overall size. Shows excellent strength and the ability to deliver the big hit. Has the versatility to play both the free and strong safety positions.

Weaknesses: Needs work on the mental aspects of the game. Does not have the range that speed would indicate and is not as good in man coverage as he should be. Recognition skills are marginal.

Bottom line: Starter who will move from free to strong safety. Has the speed, size and strength to be productive in that role but must play with better discipline.

GRADE: 6.9

T43. Dexter Jackson, Buccaneers

6-1 203

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has some big-play ability and ball skills. Can come up and support the run. Is not bashful about throwing his body into the fray.

Weaknesses: Has trouble recovering from mistakes. Is inconsistent as a tackler. Is

overaggressive and misses tackles.

Bottom line: Is at his best in zone coverage when he locks on a receiver and plays the ball. Has the coverage skills to be a decent starter but makes too many mistakes.

GRADE: 6.9

T43. Earl Little, Browns

6-0 198

Age: 29 5th year

Strengths: Has very good cover skills. Has good speed and burst. Shows good diagnostic skills and instincts. Has good quickness and movement. Can play in some man-to-man situations.

Weaknesses: Gives up too much size and bulk in the run game and is not a contributor in the box. Has had problems covering bigger receivers and tight ends.

Bottom line: Will return to backup role in Cleveland because of the arrival of Robert Griffith and contribute as a cover man in the team's nickel and dime packages.

GRADE: 6.9

T43. Sam Shade, Redskins

6-0 205

Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Has good size and power. Is a solid tackler and does a good job fighting through blocks in the running game.

Weaknesses: Gives up too many big plays in the passing game. Has poor change of direction skills and looks stiff in the hips.

Bottom line: Is a big, physical run-support safety. Is most comfortable playing close to the line but lacks ideal cover skills and might struggle in a new scheme that asks more of the strong safety in the passing game.

GRADE: 6.9

T48. Mark Roman, Bengals

5-11 184

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to play safety or corner. Has good size and speed. Shows good body control and the ability to adjust to the ball in the air. Shows excellent overall athletic ability.

Weaknesses: Has not progressed as fast as expected. Lacks technique and does not show great man-to-man cover skills.

Bottom line: Former college free safety who can play corner but is probably a better fit at safety. Does not have ideal cover skills.

GRADE: 6.8

T48. Omar Stoutmire, Giants

5-11 198

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has adequate size and good strength. Is a solid wrap-up tackler who rarely misses an open-field tackle. Is intelligent and does a good job of getting into position to make plays.

Weaknesses: Is inexperienced. Lacks ideal speed, athleticism and burst. Struggles covering receivers in the middle. Takes too many false steps. Doesn't change direction well.

Bottom line: Is an outstanding special teams contributor who is slated to start but lacks the cover skills and range to be effective in that role.

GRADE: 6.8

T50. Ainsley Battles, Jaguars

5-10 200

Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Takes good angles to the ball.

Plays well in the open field. Has good ball skills when the ball is in the air.

Weaknesses: Does not have great speed; is much better when the ball is in front of him. Can be a liability when isolated. Is not a physical player.

Bottom line: Is a decent starter but not one to get excited about.

GRADE: 6.7

T50. Keion Carpenter, Falcons

5-11 205

Age: 24 4th year

Strengths: Has good range and shows the ability to change directions. Can match up in most man coverage situations.

Weaknesses: Will be fooled on play action. Waits too long at times for the play to develop. Can't make the big play. Has below-average strength and does a poor job in run support.

Bottom line: Could take advantage of the opportunity to challenge for a starting job this season.

GRADE: 6.7



3
Shaun Williams

T50. Tyrone Carter, Vikings

5-8 190

Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Possesses excellent feel for the game and shows great instincts in coverage. Does a good job of reading the quarterback's eyes and shows good anticipation skills. Has great ball skills.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and will struggle playing close to the line of scrimmage. Is a target in the vertical passing game and in the red zone. His aggressive approach combined with lack of size makes durability a concern.

Bottom line: Is a reserve developmental safety who has not progressed as expected. Is aggressive against the run but lacks the size

to be an effective run stuffer.

GRADE: 6.7

T50. Antuan Edwards, Packers

6-1 210

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and strength. Likes to bump at the line and is aggressive in coverage. Shows good recovery speed and has excellent leaping ability.

Weaknesses: Does not have great lateral quickness and appears stiff at times. Lacks explosive burst out of the backpedal.

Bottom line: A former corner who is better at safety. Needs time and experience to adjust to the new position.

GRADE: 6.7

T50. Gerald McBurrows, Falcons

5-11 208

Age: 28 8th year

Strengths: Is physical and strong. Is a skilled tackler who shows the size and toughness to hold up against the run.

Weaknesses: Lacks the skills of a starting safety. Does not show the ability to play in coverage consistently. Doesn't have great speed or ball skills.

Bottom line: Is versatile enough to play free or strong safety and is a top special teams player. Because of an overall lack of talent at safety in Atlanta, the position is his to lose.

GRADE: 6.7

T50. Damien Robinson, Jets

6-2 223

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has good size. Delivers the big hit in the passing game. Shows good overall instincts and takes good angles to the ball while it is in the air. Rarely takes a false step.

Weaknesses: Gave up too many big plays last season. Lacks ideal straight-line speed. Does not have great athletic ability. Durability is a concern. Is not much help in run support.

Bottom line: Should benefit because the Jets will use more zone coverages, but would struggle to start in a lot of schemes and lacks ideal tools for the job.

GRADE: 6.7

T50. Matt Stevens, Texans

6-0 205

Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has experience with a lot of NFL teams. Has good size and athletic ability. Shows excellent range and is effective in run support close to the line of scrimmage.

Weaknesses: Recognition skills and the ability to play under control are inconsistent. Will gamble and get caught out of position.

Seems to be a step late in pass defense. Has had a suspension because of steroids and injury problems.

Bottom line: Starter who is much better defending the run than the pass. Needs to play with more discipline.

GRADE: 6.7

T50. David Terrell, Redskins

6-0 188

Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Shows good range and has good man-to-man cover skills. Changes direction well and does a nice job breaking down and making the open-field tackle. Shows good short-area burst.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and lacks ideal strength. Takes too many false steps in coverage and lacks great ball skills.

Bottom line: Starting free safety who still is developing but must begin to show more playmaking ability. **GRADE: 6.7**

T50. Adrian Wilson, Cardinals

6-3 207 Age: 22 2nd year

Strengths: Plays more like a linebacker; is powerful and more comfortable playing close to the line of scrimmage. Has good closing quickness.

Weaknesses: Struggles in coverage; has trouble staying with receivers, and recognition skills are subpar.

Bottom line: Is raw but athletic. Started as a rookie and was promising on special teams. Could develop into a complete player. **GRADE: 6.7**

59. Rich Coady, Rams

6-0 203 Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Is aggressive. Comes up and plays the run well. Shows good initial pop and the ability to shed blocks. Is a punishing tackler at times.

Weaknesses: Will get caught peeking into the backfield and is sometimes out of position in coverage. Does not have great burst to the ball. Has had problems staying healthy.

Bottom line: Career backup who has an impressive combination of size and speed. Durability is a concern, and he remains a liability in coverage. **GRADE: 6.6**

T60. John Keith, 49ers

6-0 207 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good size and plays aggressively. Shows a lot of short-area burst and the ability to hold up at the point of attack. Has enough range to make plays all over the field.

Weaknesses: Has a history of injuries and has not been able to gain experience or develop technique. Lacks ideal recognition skills.

Bottom line: Physical run-stuffing reserve who has good athletic ability and speed but never has stayed healthy long enough to improve. **GRADE: 6.5**

T60. Keith Lyle, Falcons

6-2 210 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and height. Will not take a lot of chances. Shows good ball skills when he's in position to make the play.

Weaknesses: Is aging quickly and has lost a step. Has trouble changing directions with quicker receivers. Has not shown the ability to make the big play in the last three seasons.

Bottom line: Is an experienced player with good leadership skills who fits best as a backup at safety and a special teams contributor. **GRADE: 6.5**

T60. Aric Morris, Titans

5-10 212 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to play strong or free safety. Shows a lot of quickness and short-area burst. Has excellent overall strength and plays with a mean streak.

Weaknesses: Is vastly undersized. Has had problems staying healthy and durability is a concern. Lacks the straight-line speed to play free safety full time in coverage.



Rodney Harrison

6

Bottom line: Will make an excellent reserve. Will make his biggest contributions on special teams. **GRADE: 6.5**

T60. Izell Reese, Broncos

6-2 190 Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Has a good combination of size and speed. Shows adequate range in zone coverage. Has outstanding leaping ability. Plays with good technique. Can deliver the big hit.

Weaknesses: Does not make a lot of big plays in the passing game. Is not a reliable tackler; is too aggressive at times.

Bottom line: Is expected to open the season as Broncos' starting free safety after four years as a backup in Dallas. Could struggle in new role. **GRADE: 6.5**

T60. Damien Richardson, Panthers

6-1 210 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has good size and power. Shows the ability to hold up at the point of attack. Will play with toughness and determination and won't make a lot of mistakes.

Weaknesses: Lacks good speed. Has trouble turning and running in man coverage.

Bottom line: Is a versatile and adequate backup who has limited potential. Backs up at free and strong safety and is one of the Panthers' better special teams players. **GRADE: 6.5**

T65. Jason Belser, Chiefs

5-10 191 Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Has intelligence, aggressiveness and plays with pride. Plays a lot bigger than his size. Has a great understanding of the game and is adequate in zone situations.

Weaknesses: Lacks great height and cannot turn and run with a quality wide receiver. Does not have the ability to explode on the

ball, and catch-up speed is marginal.

Bottom line: Reserve who won't get much playing time in Chiefs' safety rotation but is kept around for leadership. **GRADE: 6.4**

T65. Ronnie Bradford, Vikings

5-10 198 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Possesses good combination of size and speed. Is physical against the run and can deliver the big hit.

Weaknesses: Makes too many mental mistakes in coverage and will give up too many big plays. Lacks ideal instincts. Needs to do a better job of breaking down and wrapping up in the open field.

Bottom line: Starter who should help improve run defense but can be a liability in coverage. Needs to play with better discipline. **GRADE: 6.4**

T65. Chris Carter, Texans

6-2 212 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Possesses a good combination of size and speed. Is versatile enough to play free and strong safety. Takes good angles to the ball and shows the ability to deliver the big hit.

Weaknesses: Does not have ideal change of direction skills and does not appear comfortable in space. Lacks ideal hip flexibility and will struggle to turn and run with the receiver.

Bottom line: Has the potential to develop into an excellent reserve with improved tackling skills and consistency. **GRADE: 6.4**

T65. Johnndale Carty, Falcons

6-0 196 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has good speed. Is a proven tackler on special teams. Has good strength and shows the ability to sift through traffic and make plays. Is good in space.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve in coverage. Has trouble changing directions. Can be overaggressive. Lacks ideal size.

Bottom line: Is good enough to be a backup but not a starter. Isn't efficient enough in coverage. **GRADE: 6.4**

T65. Rashard Cook, Eagles

5-11 197 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: An explosive and powerful tackler who is aggressive against the run. Does a nice job of using hands to fight through traffic.

Weaknesses: Is overaggressive at times, lacks ideal change of direction ability and misses too many open-field tackles. Lacks the speed and athletic ability to cover the middle of the field or receivers man to man. Takes too many false steps.

Bottom line: Reserve run-stuffing strong safety who is most comfortable playing close to the line of scrimmage but is a liability in coverage. Will battle Michael Lewis for the backup role. **GRADE: 6.4**

T65. Anthony Dorsett, Raiders

5-11 200 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Is intelligent and has acceleration and burst. Is best suited for bump-and-run coverage because of aggressive, physical style.

Plays well close to the line. Is very good on special teams.

Weaknesses: Has a tendency to give up big plays. Is inconsistent. Seems unable to diagnose plays correctly. Is not a good tackler in space or a good run defender. Lacks fluidity.

Bottom line: Has been supplanted by Rod Woodson as Oakland's starting free safety but should contribute on special teams.

GRADE: 6.4

T65. Antwan Harris, Patriots

5-9 190

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good man-to-man cover skills. Can turn and run and has outstanding deep speed. Has catch-up ability. Has been very productive in coverage on special teams.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal free safety size. Plays with a little hesitation. Doesn't always get a good jump on the ball.

Bottom line: Is not an every-down free safety but could be a contributor in nickel and dime packages, especially in the slot in man-to-man situations.

GRADE: 6.4

T65. Shaunard Harts, Chiefs

5-11 207

Age: 24 1st year

Strengths: Has decent size and good overall range. Appears to be a decent open-field tackler and has good speed and athleticism.

Weaknesses: Is inexperienced. Has yet to show great instincts or a feel for the game.

Bottom line: Reserve who likely will be the No. 4 safety. His biggest contribution will come on special teams.

GRADE: 6.4

T65. Chris Hayes, Patriots

6-0 206

Age: 30 5th year

Strengths: Is intelligent. Is a solid contributor on special teams. Likes to play close to line of scrimmage and will provide support against the run.

Weaknesses: Does not have great range and will lose some battles in man-to-man coverage. Has trouble when he has to turn and run.

Bottom line: Is a serviceable backup safety and outstanding special teams player.

GRADE: 6.4

T65. Mike Logan, Steelers

6-1 209

Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Is athletic and fast enough to play both safety positions. Is physical and aggressive vs. the run and has the power to combat blockers. Takes good angles and can stack at the point of attack. Can line up against the tight end and push him off the ball or the route.

Weaknesses: Is exposed in pass coverage and lacks the ball skills he had earlier in his career. Is not a sound pass defender; makes mistakes, bites on play fakes and takes poor angles in pass coverage. Lacks catch-up speed.

Bottom line: Is not effective in pass situations where he can be exposed. Is an effective first- and second-down run support safety who attacks the line of scrimmage.

GRADE: 6.4

T65. Scott McGarrahan, Dolphins

6-1 200

Age: 28 5th year

Strengths: Has ideal recognition skills and shows excellent instincts. Is stronger than his size indicates and he has been durable. Plays with a great motor.

Weaknesses: Lacks the speed to recover after a mistake. Can't cover receivers one on one. Must develop a mean streak and become more of a physical presence in the middle of the field.

Bottom line: Is versatile and intelligent enough to develop into an excellent reserve but primarily is a special teams player.

GRADE: 6.4

T65. Pierson Prioleau, Bills

5-11 190

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Is versatile enough to play corner or safety. Has good quickness and is intelligent. Shows good instincts and flashes some short-area burst.

Weaknesses: Cannot cover bigger receivers or tight ends. Does not have a top gear downfield and has a difficult time recovering when he makes a mistake.

Bottom line: Is a fine backup because of his versatility and is a proven special teams player. Lack of size and speed makes him a marginal starter.

GRADE: 6.4

T65. Larry Whigham, Bears

6-2 221

Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Is a powerful hitter and a physical presence over the middle. Isn't afraid to lower his shoulder and run through people. Has good speed and short-area burst.

Weaknesses: Does not show great instincts in coverage. His body is beginning to wear down. Lacks technique and quickness; doesn't diagnose plays well. Shows little ability to redirect in coverage.

Bottom line: Has been one of the league's better special teams players but is not suited to be an every-down defender.

GRADE: 6.4

T78. James Boyd, Jaguars

5-11 208

Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Is good in zone situations. Is aggressive and physical. Is a good tackler. Rarely is out of position.

Weaknesses: Does not have great size or strength. Lacks good range and deep cover skills. Lacks experience.

Bottom line: Should become an outstanding run defender but must settle down and let his skills take over.

GRADE: 6.3

T78. Robert Carswell, Chargers

5-11 215

Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is a big, physical player who likes to punish wide receivers. Is effective coming up against the run and is a solid open-field tackler. Is a good athlete.

Weaknesses: Lacks instincts and the cover skills needed in a safety. Gets out of position at times because he's too aggressive.

Bottom line: Does a good job covering kicks on special teams and plays with intensity but must develop pass-coverage skills.

GRADE: 6.3

T78. Johnnie Harris, Raiders

6-2 210

Age: 30 4th year

Strengths: Has experience and versatility. Knows how to break on the ball and make big plays.

Weaknesses: Does not have the burst or quickness he once did. Declining skills cause him to take too many chances.

Bottom line: Doesn't do anything particularly well, and his days as a starter with the Raiders appear numbered.

GRADE: 6.3

T78. Billy Jenkins, Bills

5-10 211

Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Is intelligent and always knows his assignments. Has a decent backpedal and is fluid in turns. Is a powerful; attacks the line of scrimmage and hits with power.

Weaknesses: Has poor instincts. Doesn't wrap up as a tackler. Has a lot of trouble in space. Is too easily blocked in the running game.

Bottom line: Can help against the run but is too much of a risk in coverage and as an open-field tackler to trust with a starting job.

GRADE: 6.3

T78. Anthony Mitchell, Ravens

6-1 211

Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Has decent size and good toughness. His best production has been on special teams. Is not afraid to come up and make plays against the run. Attacks the line of scrimmage.

Weaknesses: Does not take great angles to the ball. Lacks great speed. Struggles to change direction. Is a liability in pass coverage. Lacks instincts in man-to-man situations.

Bottom line: Is an aggressive player who should be adequate against the run but likely will not play in nickel or dime packages.

GRADE: 6.3

T78. Bobby Myers, Titans

6-1 191

Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has great leaping ability and shows good ball skills. Is a tough player who can play through pain. Has very long arms.

Weaknesses: Does not have great cover skills. Needs to add some bulk to his frame; is not very strong against the run. Can't deliver the big hit.

Bottom line: Shows the ability to come in and get the job done for a short period when he is healthy.

GRADE: 6.3

T84. JoJuan Armour, Bengals

5-11 220

Age: 26 4th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and is at his best playing close to the line of scrimmage and stuffing the run. Plays like another linebacker at times. Has great strength and can deliver the big hit.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal athletic ability and is a liability in coverage. Is overaggressive at times and will miss tackles trying to make the big hit. Needs to play with more discipline.

Bottom line: Former starter who is a backup



because of struggles in pass coverage. Is an adequate situational run stuffer. **GRADE: 6.2**

T84. Jason Doering, Colts

6-0 200 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size. Plays like another linebacker. Is an excellent special teams contributor and a fierce competitor. Has confidence in his abilities.

Weaknesses: Has limited athleticism. Lacks pure quickness. Often misses open-field tackles trying to make the big play.

Bottom line: Provides solid depth. Is at his best against the running game. Will remain a situational run stuffer until he improves his cover skills. **GRADE: 6.2**

T84. Brandon Jennings, Raiders

6-0 195 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Can turn and run and has good range. Is a solid open-field tackler. Plays with aggressive attitude.

Weaknesses: Must make adjustment to cornerback after playing safety in college.

Bottom line: His ability to play special teams is the reason he is on the roster, but his playing time at corner will be minimal. **GRADE: 6.2**

T87. Tony Dixon, Cowboys

6-1 213 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has outstanding recognition skills and instincts. Has the size and strength to develop into a run-stuffing safety. Is rarely caught out of position.

Weaknesses: Missed eight games as a rookie last season because of injuries, so durability and inexperience are concerns. Needs to be more physical and aggressive against the run. Lacks ideal speed and range.

Bottom line: Must play with more confidence and develop a mean streak. **GRADE: 6.1**

T87. Ifeanyi Ohalet, Redskins

6-2 217 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent size, is a punishing tackler and shows good short-area power and burst. Shows the strength to disengage blocks and fight through traffic to make plays.

Weaknesses: Lacks speed, range and the ability to open his hips and run with the receiver. Does not have good recognition skills and is raw.

Bottom line: Backup strong safety who excels against the run but is a liability in coverage. **GRADE: 6.1**

T89. Je'Rod Cherry, Patriots

6-1 205 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent size and good speed. His best contributions come on special teams, where he will fly down the field and make a lot of plays in the kicking game.

Weaknesses: Runs too straight-line and doesn't do a great job of adjusting in the open field. Doesn't show great diagnostic skills or the ability to get a jump when the ball is in the air.

Bottom line: Is good insurance for the Patriots' secondary but not a player who should be a starter. **GRADE: 6.0**

T89. Michael Jameson, Browns

5-11 186 Age: 23 3rd year

Strengths: Has good range and can make plays in space. Will contribute in run support. Is very effective in zone coverage. Has a good feel for where the ball is going. Has a lot of upside.

Weaknesses: Needs to improve man-to-man coverage skills. Must tackle better in the open field.

Bottom line: Has upside but must stay healthy after missing his rookie season in 2001 because of an ankle injury. **GRADE: 6.0**

T89. Travares Tillman, Bills

6-1 194 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has prototypical size and range. Has good strength. Has outstanding range in the running game and makes plays from sideline to sideline.

Weaknesses: Makes too many poor reads and was out of position too much last season. Occasionally takes a false step or bad angle.

Bottom line: Starter who has the size, strength and aggressiveness to succeed but must prove he can handle the position full-time. **GRADE: 6.0**

T89. Shawn Wooden, Dolphins

5-11 205 Age: 28 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent instincts and

recognition skills. Plays with a great motor and has a terrific work ethic. Has adequate size and speed.

Weaknesses: Has had problems staying healthy. No longer has the range to be an effective field player. Does not have great power and must do a better job of breaking down and wrapping up.

Bottom line: Will make his biggest contributions on special teams. **GRADE: 6.0**

T93. Devin Bush, Browns

6-0 210 Age: 29 8th year

Smart and instinctive. Plays at his best when he is almost a linebacker in the box. Not a great cover guy but takes great angles and usually is around the ball. **GRADE: 5.9**

T93. Marty Carter, free agent

6-1 213 Age: 32 11th year

A former starter in Atlanta, Carter is like a fourth linebacker on the field. He is great vs. the run but struggles in coverage. **GRADE: 5.9**

T93. Chad Cota, free agent

6-0 196 Age: 31 7th year

Starter for the Colts a season ago, but he is getting by on instincts and angles rather than skills. No longer a space player and is a liability in coverage but is smart. **GRADE: 5.9**

T93. Percy Ellsworth, free agent

6-2 225 Age: 27 6th year

Always is around the ball. But age and taking a lot of chances have hurt his ability in coverage. Not the player he once was. **GRADE: 5.9**

T93. Trent Gamble, Dolphins

5-9 195 Age: 25 3rd year

Plays with a nonstop motor. Shows good speed and range. Plays with great technique and has excellent instincts. Lacks size, strength and athletic ability. Can fill in for a short time but would struggle if asked to make a significant contribution. **GRADE: 5.9**

T93. Carnell Lake, free agent

6-1 213 Age: 35 13th year

Played for the Ravens a season ago, but his skills were in decline. Doesn't have the feet, range or skills in coverage to be effective in man or zone. The plays he makes are on instincts. **GRADE: 5.9**

T93. Damon Moore, Bears

5-11 215 Age: 25 3rd year

Started for the Eagles last season. A hard-nosed player who always is around the ball. Better vs. the run but can play good pass defense in zone. **GRADE: 5.9**

T93. Jason Perry, Chargers

6-0 200 Age: 26 3rd year

Isn't afraid to throw his body around against the run but lacks great speed, coverage skills and ability to change directions. **GRADE: 5.9**

T93. Marquez Pope, free agent

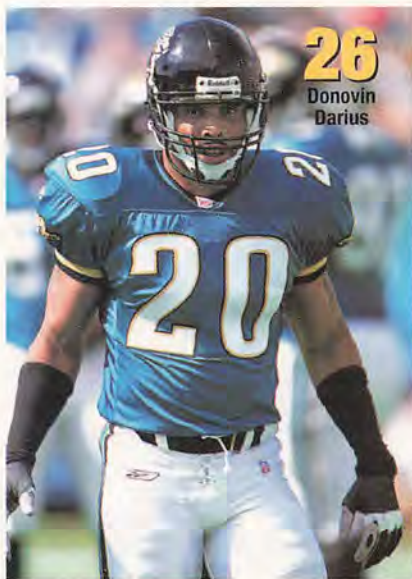
5-11 205 Age: 31 10th year

Ex-Raider who gave up too many big plays last season. Struggles with range and deep coverage schemes. Is a little stiff and straight-lined and no longer can make plays in space. **GRADE: 5.9**

T93. Kurt Schulz, free agent

6-1 208 Age: 33 10th year

When healthy last season, was a starter for Detroit, but his level of play dropped off. Is smart and



BOB LEVERONE / TSN

instinctive but no longer has physical skills. Cannot run and cover and get to the deep half of the field.

GRADE: 5.9

T93. Marquis Smith, Browns

6-2 213 Age: 27 4th year
Was tried outside last season but was out of place and undersized. Not natural in terms of angles and techniques and seems to have no feel in coverage. Can be effective if he plays in the box in run defense.

GRADE: 5.9

T93. George Teague, free agent

6-1 196 Age: 31 9th year
Ex-starter in Dallas. Is instinctive but he guesses too much and gives up too many big plays. He appears to have marginal ball skills and reactions.

GRADE: 5.9

T93. Bracey Walker, Lions

6-0 206 Age: 31 9th year
Lack of cover skills, speed and athleticism make him a fringe No. 4 safety.

GRADE: 5.9

T93. Kevin Williams, Texans

6-0 192 Age: 27 4th year
Has solid experience from playing with the Dolphins and Jets. His career has been hindered by injuries. Likely will get time at free safety in Houston.

GRADE: 5.9

T107. Eric Brown, free agent

6-0 210 Age: 27 4th year
Has fallen after starting for the Broncos. Is intimidating safety and has big hitting skills and good range and zone qualities. Isn't always in great position.

GRADE: 5.8

T107. George Coghill, Broncos

6-0 210 Age: 32 6th year
A depth player who is valued by the Broncos because of his experience. Has the ability to step in for a short period, but his biggest contributions come on special teams.

GRADE: 5.8

T107. Jarrod Cooper, Panthers

6-0 210 Age: 24 2nd year
Has a great combination of size and speed, and the ideal mentality of a strong safety. Will contribute on special teams.

GRADE: 5.8

T107. Nick Ferguson, Jets

5-11 201 Age: 28 3rd year
Physical player who has developed into a quality

reserve. Lacks size and would struggle if forced into starting lineup. Can fill in for short period. Biggest contribution will come in return game.

GRADE: 5.8

T107. Curtis Fuller, Seahawks

5-10 180 Age: 24 2nd year
Doesn't have natural strength. His playing time figures to decrease because the Seahawks have more quality defensive backs.

GRADE: 5.8

T107. Tim Hauck, free agent

5-10 187 Age: 35 10th year
Ex-Eagle has a nose for the ball and will deliver the blow in the running and passing games. Has lost the ability to turn and run in coverage; age is starting to catch up with him.

GRADE: 5.8

T107. Ronnie Heard, 49ers

6-3 215 Age: 25 3rd year
Reserve safety who has good size and is a powerful tackler, but his lack of ideal athletic ability, speed and range are concerns.

GRADE: 5.8

T107. Raion Hill, free agent

6-0 200 Age: 26 2nd year
Ex-Bill was handed starting job last season but couldn't hold on to it. He struggled in man-to-man coverage and was marginal vs. the run—as a tackler and in his angles to the ball.

GRADE: 5.8

T107. John Howell, Buccaneers

5-11 204 Age: 24 2nd year
A versatile backup at free safety and strong safety and a solid special teams player.

GRADE: 5.8

T116. Myron Bell, free agent

5-11 212 Age: 30 9th year
Was a reserve in Pittsburgh last season. No longer has great range, feet or quickness and is a liability in man-to-man coverage.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Matt Bowen, Packers

6-1 208 Age: 25 3rd year
Smart and instinctive player who seems to have good ball skills and range. Is not flashy but is productive.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Scott Frost, Packers

6-3 219 Age: 27 5th year
A former college quarterback who is a solid contributor on special teams. Has been slow to make the transition to safety.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. David Gibson, Buccaneers

6-1 210 Age: 24 3rd year
Plays mostly on special teams. Has great size and is a force vs. the run. Lacks speed to help in pass coverage.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Chris Hudson, free agent

5-10 199 Age: 30 7th year
Was a backup for Atlanta last season, but he no longer has the speed or range and cannot get to the deep half in zone situations.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Maurice Kelly, Seahawks

6-2 209 Age: 29 3rd year
Ex-CFL standout who fought off nagging injuries the past two seasons. Lacks speed and quickness and gambles too much.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Justin Lucas, Cardinals

5-10 197 Age: 26 4th year
Has adequate size and speed but must work on coverage skills. Average special teams contributor.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Don Morgan, free agent

5-11 202 Age: 26 2nd year
Ex-Viking is decent on special teams and is a try-

hard guy who lacks skills to be a valid contributor in space. Only production is when he covers kicks.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Richard Newsome, Saints

5-11 202 Age: 24 1st year
Has some production on special teams but lacks speed to turn and run and appears to be somewhat stiff and stright-lined. Shows marginal ability to adjust in the open field.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Chris Oldham, free agent

5-9 200 Age: 33 11th year
Was a backup for New Orleans last season, but skills are gone. Gets by on angles and instincts and ability to get a jump on the ball.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. DeWayne Patmon, Giants

6-0 190 Age: 23 2nd year
Backup who has good size and strength and contributes on special teams. Lacks ideal athletic ability and has marginal range.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Perry Phenix, free agent

5-11 210 Age: 27 4th year
Had stops in Carolina and Tennessee last season. Lack of speed and cover skills hurts him. Appears to be stiff and stright-lined and shows marginal ability in space to turn, run and catch up.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Ron Rice, free agent

6-1 217 Age: 29 7th year
Was backup last season before going on injured reserve. Appears to be a guy who has been hurt too many times and no longer can get through a 16-game grind. No longer has great speed.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Lynn Scott, Cowboys

6-0 210 Age: 25 2nd year
Is an asset in coverage of kickoffs and punts. Gets time as a reserve in the dime package. Has a good nose for the ball.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Nick Sorensen, Rams

6-2 205 Age: 24 2nd year
Tall, rangy backup who has good speed and adequate strength. Struggles to change direction quickly. Needs to improve technique and recognition skills.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Orlando Thomas, free agent

6-1 225 Age: 29 7th year
Ex-Viking has succumbed to mounting injuries the last few seasons. Is a hard hitter but will struggle to get through the season. Doesn't show good cover skills.

GRADE: 5.7

T116. Joe Walker, Titans

5-10 204 Age: 25 2nd year
Is excellent on special teams and has good range in coverage. Seems to have good overall skills. Isn't polished but bears watching.

GRADE: 5.7

T133. Tony Driver, Bills

6-1 207 Age: 25 2nd year
Smart and instinctive player who is coming back from a knee injury that hindered his rookie season. Has size, speed and ability, but is he the same guy from a year ago?

GRADE: 5.6

T133. Steve Gleason, Saints

5-11 215 Age: 25 3rd year
Probably never will do more than help on special teams and provide depth at strong safety. Lacks cover skills and natural tools.

GRADE: 5.6

T133. Jermaine Hampton, Colts

6-0 219 Age: 23 2nd year
Decent special teams player who has good size and

toughness. Shows ability to be physical vs. the run and play the deep half in cover 2 schemes. But he is straight-lined and lacks pure deep speed.

GRADE: 5.6

T133. Clarence LeBlanc, Giants

6-2 210 Age: 25 2nd year

Has good size and is comfortable playing close to the line of scrimmage but lacks athleticism and is a liability in coverage.

GRADE: 5.6

T133. Than Merrill, Bears

6-2 212 Age: 24 2nd year

Lacks the speed and ability to turn and run with receivers, making him a liability in coverage.

GRADE: 5.6

140. Corey Hall, Falcons

6-4 203 Age: 23 2nd year

Has good speed but poor recognition skills. Must improve to warrant playing time.

GRADE: 5.5

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Roy Williams, Cowboys

6-0 219 Oklahoma, 1st round

Strengths: Is big enough to play in the box and athletic enough to play over the middle. Is a consistent, punishing tackler. Takes great angles to the ball and attacks the line of scrimmage. Is an effective blitz.

Weaknesses: Lacks ideal ball skills and drops too many interception opportunities. Will play the receiver instead of the ball at times. Closing speed isn't as good when he's forced to turn and run with a receiver.

Bottom line: Will make an immediate impact as a starter.

GRADE: 9.7

2. Ed Reed, Ravens

5-11 205 Miami (Fla.), 1st round

Strengths: Has good power. Is an outstanding tackler. Is disruptive vs. the run. Makes big plays vs. the pass. Can play man-to-man and zone coverage. Can turn and run in pursuit. Attacks when the ball is in the air. Has great hands.

Weaknesses: Does not have blazing speed or great athleticism. Lacks great size.

Bottom line: It is tough to ask a rookie to step in and take a leadership role in a secondary, but Reed appears to be the perfect guy to do that. He is mature and should be a bright spot for the club.

GRADE: 9.2

3. Michael Lewis, Eagles

6-1 211 Colorado, 2nd round

Strengths: Has better-than-average size and the strength to hold his ground at the point of attack. Shows very good disengagement ability. Is instinctive, displays strong recognition skills and doesn't take a lot of false steps.

Weaknesses: Appears uncomfortable in coverage at times and will struggle when called on to cover a lot of ground to defense passes.

Bottom line: Physical and powerful reserve strong safety who needs to improve his feel for the passing game. Is expected to con-

tribute immediately on special teams and eventually replace Blaine Bishop.

GRADE: 8.7

4. Lamont Thompson, Bengals

6-1 220 Washington State, 2nd round

Strengths: Is well-built and has outstanding speed and range. Shows good ball skills and instincts. Does a good job of reading the quarterback's eyes. Takes good angles to the ball. Explodes out of the back pedal and shows great closing burst.

Weaknesses: Hasn't been the same since a neck injury. Durability is a concern. Has been less aggressive and does not appear comfortable playing close to the line of scrimmage.

Bottom line: Should experience some growing pains early. Has the playmaking skills and speed to develop into an excellent starter.

GRADE: 8.3

5. Ramon Walker, Texans

6-0 197 Pittsburgh, 5th round

Strengths: Is aggressive big hitting safety with excellent overall toughness. An explosive tackler with good overall athleticism, shows good straight-line speed and burst. Is adequate as a short area cover guy and will cover a lot of ground. Has a nose for the football.

Weaknesses: Lacks discipline, which puts the secondary in position to give up some plays. Needs to play with more discipline. Misses too many tackles trying to make the big play.

Bottom line: Reserve who will be an excellent special teams performer and could be a back-up safety especially against the run, where big hitting style may work.

GRADE: 8.0

6. Jon McGraw, Jets

6-3 206 Kansas State, 2nd round

Is versatile. Has speed and cover skills to play over the middle and range and tackling consistency to support the run. Likely won't have a significant impact this season. Must add bulk and learn scheme. Is excellent insurance and should push for starting job next season.

GRADE: 7.8

7. Chris Hope, Steelers

6-0 204 Florida State, 3rd round

Free safety who could become a capable complementary player and contribute solid, blue-collar production.

GRADE: 6.8

8. Tank Williams, Titans

6-3 223 Stanford, 2nd round

Should push for the starting strong safety job immediately. Is a run-stuffing player who has the size and strength to play close to the line of scrimmage. Could struggle learning on the job.

GRADE: 6.7

9. Marques Anderson, Packers

5-11 211 UCLA, 3rd round

Has great instincts and recognition skills and is an explosive hitter but needs to improve cover skills.

GRADE: 6.2

10. Jermaine Phillips, Buccaneers

6-1 214 Georgia, 5th round

Aggressive player who attacks the line of scrimmage vs. the run. Must work on coverage skills and open-field tackling but shows promise.

GRADE: 6.1

11. Marquand Manuel, Bengals

6-0 209 Florida, 6th round

Was impressive in minicamps and is a powerful tackler. Must develop cover skills and will make biggest contribution on special teams.

GRADE: 5.9

12. Kevin Curtis, 49ers

6-2 212 Texas Tech, 4th round

Is a proven run-stuffer and explosive tackler who is most comfortable playing close to the line. Lacks the athletic ability and speed to consistently play deep in coverage.

GRADE: 5.7

13. Chris Young, Broncos

5-11 210 Georgia Tech, 7th round

Has the potential to develop into an excellent run-stuffing safety. Is a tough, hard-nosed player. Must make an impact on special teams.

GRADE: 5.1

14. Terreal Bierria, Seahawks

6-3 216 Georgia, 4th round

A terrific athlete who has excellent size and functional speed. Was beginning to develop into a true player before leaving college a year early. Has upside but will need time to develop.

GRADE: 4.9

15. Coy Wire, Bills

6-0 209 Stanford, 3rd round

Versatile player who should improve with experience but is too raw in coverage to help much. Probably will contribute on special teams.

GRADE: 4.8

16. Chad Williams, Ravens

5-9 207 Southern Mississippi, 6th round

Is not athletic enough to play corner but has great work ethic and makes more plays than skills indicate.

GRADE: 4.5

17. Willie Offord, Vikings

6-1 215 South Carolina, 3rd round

Has great explosiveness and is an excellent tackler. Will need time to learn Vikings' scheme and adjust to the speed of the NFL game. Likely will struggle early.

GRADE: 4.1

T18. Sam Brandon, Broncos

6-2 200 UNLV, 4th round

A former wide receiver who was switched to safety in 1999. Has natural leadership skills and the potential to develop into an effective situational run stuffer.

GRADE: 4.0

T18. James Lewis, Colts

5-10 192 Miami (Fla.), 6th round

Should be an excellent special teams player. Could develop into an effective reserve over time.

GRADE: 4.0

T20. Steve Bellisari, Rams

6-3 220 Ohio State, 6th round

Former college quarterback who will need time to make the transition to safety. His main contribution this season will be on special teams.

GRADE: 3.0

T20. Bobby Gray, Bears

6-0 209 Louisiana Tech, 5th round

Is fearless against the run but not a great athlete. Needs time to develop; contributions will be on special teams this season.

GRADE: 3.0

T20. Kevin McCadam, Falcons

6-1 219 Virginia Tech, 5th round

Should contribute on special teams and eventually could push for a starting strong safety spot if his coverage skills improve.

GRADE: 3.0

VETERANS

GRADE: 9.7

GRADE: 9.5

GRADE: 9.2

A full-page action photograph of Adam Vinatieri, the New England Patriots' placekicker. He is wearing his number 4 jersey and is captured mid-kick, with his right leg extended forward and his left leg planted on the grass. He is wearing a silver helmet with the Patriots logo and a white jersey with blue and red accents. In the foreground, another player in a Patriots uniform is crouched low to the ground, ready to snap the ball. The background is a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium setting. The number 7 is printed in the bottom right corner of the page.

7
Adam
Vinatieri

POP / EVERYONE / TCM

GRADE: 9.1

Strengths: Has outstanding accuracy. Has a strong leg and generally smooth mechanics.

Can kick in bad weather. Can connect on attempts from 50 yards.

Weaknesses: Kickoffs aren't what they used to be. Must improve hang time. Has struggled to make the clutch attempts.

Bottom line: Coming off worst season of his career in terms of accuracy but still is one of the league's better kickers. **GRADE: 8.6**

6. Matt Stover, Ravens

5-11 178 Age: 34 13th year

Strengths: Has a strong leg, tremendous accuracy and outstanding mechanics. Handles pressure well and has made a lot of big kicks in big games. Consistent and has good rhythm.

Weaknesses: Can wear down if also handling kickoff duties.

Bottom line: One of the league's more complete and reliable kickers. The team lacks many weapons, so he likely will be called on to try a lot of long-range field goals.

GRADE: 8.5

7. Adam Vinatieri, Patriots

6-0 200 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent mechanics and is extremely consistent. Knows how to kick in bad weather. Leg is strong enough to occasionally make a 50-yard field goal. Thrives under pressure.

Weaknesses: Accuracy declines sharply on kicks of more than 40 yards. Is a liability as a kickoff specialist; does not always kick the ball deep or put enough air under it.

Bottom line: Clutch kicker who plays for a team that figures to be in a lot of close games again.

GRADE: 8.3

T8. John Carney, Saints

5-11 180 Age: 38 13th year

Strengths: Has a strong leg. Did not miss inside 40 yards last season. Has smooth and consistent mechanics. Is experienced and proven in big-game situations.

Weaknesses: Cannot handle both kickoff and field-goal duties. Is beginning to age, and no longer has great durability.

Bottom line: Has the leg strength and accuracy to produce another quality season.

GRADE: 8.0

T8. Mike Hollis, Bills

5-7 178 Age: 30 7th year

Strengths: Has been sensational inside 50 yards throughout career. Mechanics, focus,

quickness and accuracy are impeccable. Has above-average range and can make kicks under pressure.

Weaknesses: Has had some troubles stemming from a nerve damage injury that forced him to miss four games in 2000.

Bottom line: Extremely accurate kicker who has a strong leg and solid mechanics. Is trying to bounce back from the worst season of his career.

GRADE: 8.0

T8. Sebastian Janikowski, Raiders

6-1 255 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Big, physical kicker with a very strong leg. Has outstanding range on field goals and gets many touchbacks on kickoffs. Is extremely accurate and gets the ball off quickly, with good height.

Weaknesses: Has no physical weaknesses but off-the-field problems will be an issue until proved otherwise. His distance on kickoffs appeared to fade toward end of last season.

Bottom line: One of the most talented and explosive kickers in the NFL.

GRADE: 8.0

11. Bill Gramatica, Cardinals

5-10 194 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Strong leg. Showed impressive poise and accuracy as a rookie.

Weaknesses: Spent the offseason recovering from a torn ligament in his plant (right) knee. Kickoffs were inconsistent last season, despite excellent leg strength, and had some go out of bounds. Must improve directional skills.

Bottom line: Has the leg strength, confidence and accuracy to become a top kicker in the league—as long as he stays healthy.

GRADE: 7.8

12. John Kasay, Panthers

5-10 198 Age: 32 12th year

Strengths: A veteran with great experience. Has proved he can hit the clutch kick. Has very good, consistent mechanics. Is extremely accurate inside 45 yards.

Weaknesses: Durability will be a concern for the rest of his career. Will wear down as the season progresses.

Bottom line: Probably can handle both kickoffs and field goals for another year.

GRADE: 7.7

13. Jason Hanson, Lions

5-11 182 Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Has good mechanics and benefits from adequate blocking in front of him. Has

a strong leg. Kickoffs are excellent.

Weaknesses: Is coming off a disappointing season in which he appeared to wear down toward the end.

Bottom line: Has been one of the more consistent kickers in the league but must rebound from a down season in which he struggled from 40 to 49 yards.

GRADE: 7.6

T14. Phil Dawson, Browns

5-11 190 Age: 27 4th year

Strengths: Is one of NFL's most accurate kickers; has missed just 10 field-goal attempts and two extra points in three seasons. Gets the ball deep on kickoffs.

Weaknesses: Does not have a big leg; has never attempted a field goal beyond 50 yards.

Bottom line: Entering his fourth season as the Browns' kicker.

GRADE: 7.5

T14. Paul Edinger, Bears

5-8 163 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has better than average leg strength and shows good accuracy on attempts 40 yards or longer. Consistently kicks well under pressure. Technique is consistent and smooth, and he has good mechanics. Should improve with experience.

Weaknesses: Does not have great hang time or depth on kickoffs.

Bottom line: Though he must improve distance on kickoffs, he's still a clutch kicker.

GRADE: 7.5

T14. Jeff Wilkins, Rams

6-2 205 Age: 30 9th year

Strengths: Is technically sound and has smooth mechanics. Has great leg strength and is a proven clutch performer.

Weaknesses: Shorter-than-usual kickoffs in 2001 indicate he might not be able to handle both roles. Has had durability problems.

Bottom line: Is an upper-echelon kicker who can make the game-winning kick and connect on longer attempts. Team could call on Mitch Berger to share the kickoff role to keep Wilkins' leg fresh.

GRADE: 7.5

17. John Hall, Jets

6-3 228 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has excellent leg strength. Gets excellent height and direction on kickoffs. Does a great job in colder weather and shows the ability to perform well in poor conditions.

Weaknesses: Accuracy and consistency

BEST LEG/PUNTER: Shane Lechler, Raiders

Not only does he get great depth on his kicks, he gets great hang time, which gives his coverage teams time to get downfield.

BEST LEG/KICKER: Sebastian Janikowski, Raiders

When healthy, he has the strength to send the ball out of the end zone on kickoffs. Better accuracy and consistency could make him the league's best overall kicker.

BEST DIRECTIONAL PUNTER: Ken Walter, Patriots

The team re-signed Walter, a midseason addition in 2001, because of his ability to pin teams deep, forcing opposing offenses to go the length of the field.

BEST FIELD GOAL KICKER: Adam Vinatieri, Patriots

He is accurate, even in poor weather, and has good leg strength. It doesn't hurt that he hit the game-winning field goal in the closing seconds of Super Bowl 36.

BEST KICKOFF RETURNER: Ronney Jenkins, Chargers

Not only does Jenkins have the balance, burst and speed to make the big play, he does a great job of getting the team's often struggling offense better field position.

BEST PUNT RETURNER: Troy Brown, Patriots

Brown, who returned two punts for touchdowns in 2001, isn't the league's most explosive returner, but he has great vision and patience and hits the open seam.

BEST IN COVERAGE: Larry Whigham, Bears

His ability to get downfield quickly and wrap up the return man in the open field won him a trip to the Pro Bowl last season. He should return this season.

BEST BIG-PLAY THREAT: Steve Smith, Panthers

As a rookie in 2001, he returned two kickoffs and one punt for touchdowns. With his speed, elusiveness and burst, Smith should improve with experience.

remain concerns. Shows little rhythm, and mechanics vary from one kick to the next.
Bottom line: Shows the ability to make the big play under pressure and does a great job on kickoffs. Could develop into one of the premier kickers in the league with time.

GRADE: 7.4

18. Ryan Longwell, Packers

6-0 200 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Has a big leg and has shown the ability to connect on field-goal attempts beyond 50 yards.

Weaknesses: Kickoffs lack hang time and he doesn't show great directional skills.

Bottom line: Had been one of the league's most consistent kickers on attempts from 45 yards and in but struggled in that area last season. Must regain his confidence and mechanics to rebound.

GRADE: 7.3

19. Joe Nedney, Titans

6-5 220 Age: 29 7th year

Strengths: Has excellent leg strength. Is outstanding on kickoffs. Can kick deep while putting enough hang time on his kicks. Did not miss from 40 yards

Weaknesses: Is very inconsistent. Needs to do a better job of using the same technique consistently.

Bottom line: Could be pushed for the starting job but should hold on to it because of his leg strength.

GRADE: 7.2

20. Brett Conway, Redskins

6-2 207 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Accuracy has improved, and mechanics are consistent. Has the leg strength to hit the 50-plus-yard field goal and does a good job of getting the kick away quickly. Depth and accuracy on kickoffs have improved.

Weaknesses: Has not been put in many game-winning situations, so it's hard to tell if he can make the clutch kick.

Bottom line: Continues to improve and has the leg strength to become a solid kicker.

GRADE: 7.1

T21. Morten Andersen, Chiefs

6-2 205 Age: 42 21th year

Strengths: Is one of the most solid technical kickers ever to play in the NFL. Has a great rhythm and nice style. Very effective in short to intermediate range field goals. Handles pressure well, gets good height on the ball, and has made a lot of big kicks in big games.

Weaknesses: Does not have the powerful leg he had earlier in career.

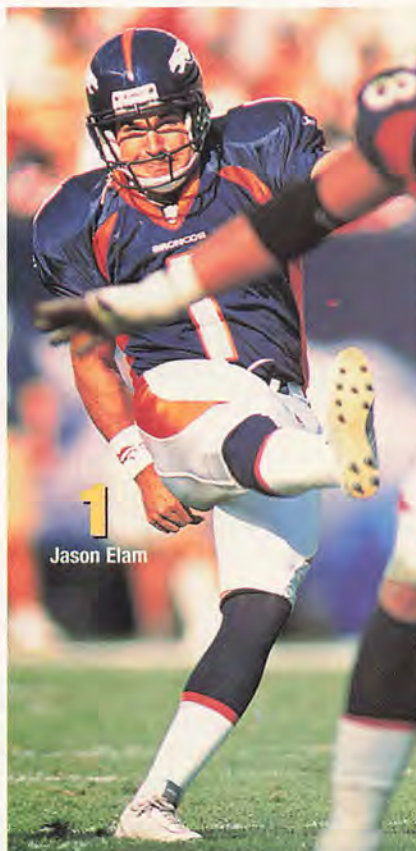
Bottom line: Staring kicker who provides stability and consistency. Is a liability on long-range field goals and kickoffs.

GRADE: 7.0

T21. Doug Brien, Vikings

6-0 180 Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Shows the ability to connect on longer attempts when he strikes the ball well. Plays with good technique and generally is very accurate. Gets good hang time on kickoffs and allows the cover team to get downfield.



1 Jason Elam

CLIFF GRASSMICK FOR TSN

Weaknesses: Is extremely inconsistent and attempted just five field goals last season. Must play with excellent technique because he lacks ideal leg strength.

Bottom line: Did not play much in 2001 and did not play well in 2000. If confidence can be regained, he has the tools to be effective.

GRADE: 7.0

T21. Jay Feely, Falcons

5-10 206 Age: 26 2nd year

Strengths: Has enough leg strength as a field-goal kicker and has improved as a kickoff specialist.

Weaknesses: Has only decent accuracy. Struggles from 40 to 49 yards. Will lose focus on some kicks.

Bottom line: Has all the skills but needs to improve overall consistency as a midrange field-goal kicker.

GRADE: 7.0

T21. Todd Peterson, Steelers

5-10 177 Age: 32 8th year

Strengths: Has kicked in many big games throughout his career.

Weaknesses: Lost leg strength over past few years. Struggles with field goals over 40 yards and missed more field goals in 2001 than in any previous season.

Bottom line: Steelers are looking for more consistency, and he has a history of being consistent. Will need to be automatic from 40 yards and give cover teams a chance to pin opponent inside the 20 on kickoffs.

GRADE: 7.0

25. Rian Lindell, Seahawks

6-3 226 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has good leg strength and was extremely accurate two years ago. Still young enough to improve with experience.

Weaknesses: Was inconsistent last season and lost his confidence. Kickoffs were poor, and he needs to do a better job of allowing the coverage team to get downfield.

Bottom line: Has the ability to bounce back from a down year. But he needs to improve his mechanics.

GRADE: 6.9

26. Steve Christie, Chargers

6-0 195 Age: 34 13th year

Strengths: Has good mechanics, gets the ball off the ground well and gets some height on his kicks. Has a lot of experience.

Weaknesses: Lacks consistency, especially recently, on clutch kicks. Has questionable leg strength and his kickoffs are short.

Bottom line: More consistency on field-goal attempts and extra points would make his short kickoffs more tolerable.

GRADE: 6.8

T27. Jose Cortez, 49ers

5-11 205 Age: 27 2nd year

Strengths: Shows good mechanics. Is most comfortable with attempts from 45 yards and in. Has adequate leg strength and range.

Weaknesses: Production dropped significantly in second half of last season. Is streaky and loses confidence easily. Has trouble kicking in poor weather. Doesn't show enough power or consistency on kickoffs.

Bottom line: Inconsistent kicker who can be effective when in a rhythm but must rebound better from mistakes.

GRADE: 6.7

T27. Owen Pochman, Giants

6-0 180 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Shows excellent leg strength for becoming a kickoff specialist and making longer field-goal attempts.

Weaknesses: His kickoffs have been disappointing. Has yet to translate leg strength into production. Is streaky and inconsistent. Is inexperienced.

Bottom line: Is replacing Morten Andersen as the Giants' full-time kicker. Has potential but must produce in games.

GRADE: 6.7

T27. Neil Rackers, Bengals

6-0 205 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has good leg strength and shows the ability to connect on longer attempts. Does an excellent job getting the ball into the end zone consistently on kickoffs. Still young; should improve with experience.

Weaknesses: Is inconsistent. Does not show the same approach or mechanics on field-goal attempts. Does not have great accuracy. Does not respond well to missed attempts and needs to regain confidence.

Bottom line: With improved mechanics and consistency, he has the potential to be an excellent kicker. He needs to show improvement.

GRADE: 6.7

T27. Tim Seder, Cowboys

5-9 197

Age: 27 2nd year

Strengths: Has good overall range and does adequate job of getting kicks off quickly.**Weaknesses:** Is inconsistent and lacks technique. Needs to develop more confidence. Missed eight games last season because of an ankle injury, so durability is a concern.**Bottom line:** Is a powerful kicker who needs to develop consistent mechanics and improved confidence. **GRADE: 6.7****31. Wade Richey, Chargers**

6-3 205

Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has a strong leg and excellent range on field-goal attempts. Gets good distance on kickoffs.**Weaknesses:** Lack of consistency is a problem. Tries to overpower the ball. Mechanics are not fluid at times.**Bottom line:** Has a lot to prove after a disappointing 2001 season. **GRADE: 6.6****T32. Kris Brown, Texans**

5-11 206

Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Has outstanding leg strength and power. Gets excellent depth and hang time

on kickoffs and does a good job of allowing the cover team to get downfield and make a play.

Weaknesses: Had huge problems in swirling winds in Pittsburgh, and it resulted in 14 missed field-goal attempts. Will need to regain confidence as field-goal kicker.**Bottom line:** Young kicker who has excellent potential. His struggles were well-documented last year, but he should benefit from not having to kick at Heinz Field half of the season. Should bounce back. **GRADE: 6.2****T32. Jaret Holmes, Jaguars**

6-0 216

Age: 26 2nd year

Strengths: Soccer-style kicker has a strong leg and good follow-through. Gets good height on his field goals and is capable of kicking long ones.**Weaknesses:** Never has been consistent. The big question: How will he handle the pressure of being a team's No. 1 kicker from the beginning of the season?**Bottom line:** Has the inside track but don't be surprised if the Jaguars bring in a veteran kicker or two if he struggles. **GRADE: 6.2****33. Gary Anderson, free agent**

5-11 193

Age: 43 20th year

The NFL's all-time leading scorer is no longer a threat on kickoffs or on long field-goal attempts, but he's still fairly accurate. **GRADE: 5.8****T34. Brad Daluiso, free agent**

6-1 180

Age: 34 10th year

Kicked in one game for the Raiders last season after Sebastian Janikowski was injured but did little to counter the opinion that he's over the hill. Once known for a powerful leg, but that is gone, as is his accuracy. **GRADE: 5.5****T34. Shayne Graham, free agent**

6-0 192

Age: 24 2nd year

Is fairly accurate on shorter field goals and puts good direction on his kickoffs, but he lacks a big leg and is a liability on kickoffs. **GRADE: 5.5****T34. Danny Nigh, free agent**

6-1 214

Age: 31 3rd year

Has a strong leg and is known for his kickoffs, but too many line drives and his overall inconsistency drove the Ravens batty last season. **GRADE: 5.5****37. Jake Arriens, free agent**

5-11 200

Age: 24 2nd year

Was Buffalo's regular kicker in 2001 until missed field goals and inconsistency caught up with him. Has a strong leg but is very erratic. **GRADE: 5.3****ROOKIES***Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.***1. Jeff Chandler, 49ers**

6-2 218

Florida, 4th round

Has a strong leg and good range but puts a low trajectory on his kicks, making them susceptible to being blocked in the NFL. Showed improved consistency and accuracy as a senior at Florida and made some clutch kicks. He certainly doesn't lack confidence. **GRADE: 3.9****2. Hayden Epstein, Jaguars**

6-2 214

Michigan, 7th round

Leg strength and versatility are his biggest assets. Could end up as Jacksonville's No. 1 kicker—or the backup punter. Occasionally gets sloppy with techniques. **GRADE: 3.7****PUNTERS****VETERANS****1. Craig Hentrich, Titans**

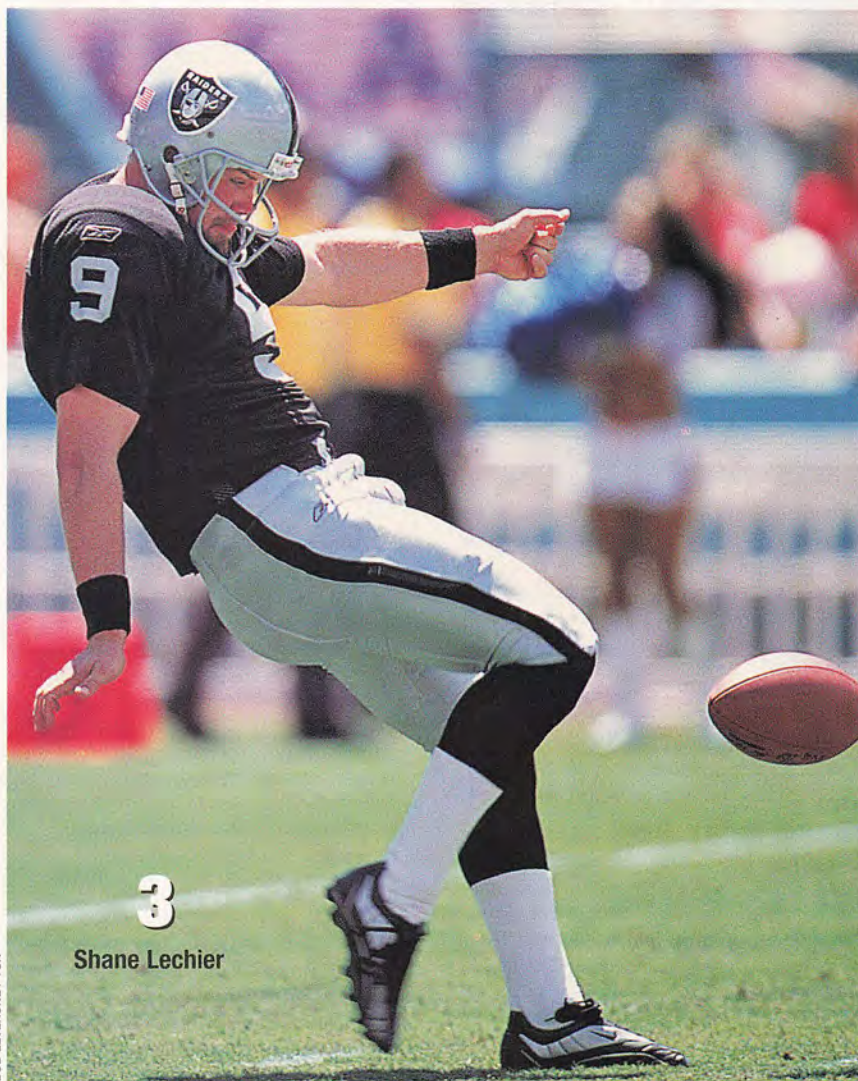
6-3 198

Age: 31 9th year

Strengths: Consistently can drop the ball inside the 20-yard line. Gets rid of the ball in a hurry. Does an excellent job of putting enough hang time on his kicks to allow his cover teams to get downfield.**Weaknesses:** Is at his best when he can focus on just punts. Does not have elite leg strength.**Bottom line:** His ability to keep the ball away from dangerous return men is what makes him so valuable to his team. **GRADE: 9.5****2. Scott Player, Cardinals**

6-1 220

Age: 32 5th year

Strengths: Gets excellent hang time. Gets the

3

Shane Lechier

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

ball off quickly and can pin opponents deep in their territory. Has a strong leg. Handles the bad snap well and is reliable.

Weaknesses: Missed four weeks last season because of an injury, which helped lead to a down year. Age is becoming a factor.

Bottom line: When healthy, is in the upper echelon of punters. Should bounce back from a subpar 2001. His sound mechanics should make him effective for another two or three years. **GRADE: 8.9**

3. Shane Lechler, Raiders

6-2 225 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has an excellent combination of size and athletic ability, and a strong leg. Handles pressure well, adjusts to bad snaps well and is threat to run with the ball. Can fill in as a kicker in emergency situations.

Weaknesses: Not many. Could do a better job with placement of punts, but this is a minor weakness.

Bottom line: He will continue to get better with experience. **GRADE: 8.3**

4. Mitch Berger, Rams

6-4 228 Age: 30 8th year

Strengths: Has tremendous leg strength and overall control.

Weaknesses: Net and gross averages both dropped significantly last season. Appeared to wear down from handling both the punting and kickoff duties. Missed the final four games because of a back injury.

Bottom line: Free-agent acquisition is one of the better punters in the league. Might not have to handle the kickoff duties this year—which would help his productivity—or could share the role with Jeff Wilkins. **GRADE: 8.2**

T5. Jeff Feagles, Seahawks

6-1 207 Age: 36 15th year

Strengths: One of the most consistent, accurate punters in NFL. Does an outstanding job with directional punts and almost always will kick within his coverage.

Weaknesses: Does not have a strong leg, and age is becoming a concern.

Bottom line: Was one of the better punters in the league a year ago and is good enough to hold the job for at least one more season. **GRADE: 8.0**

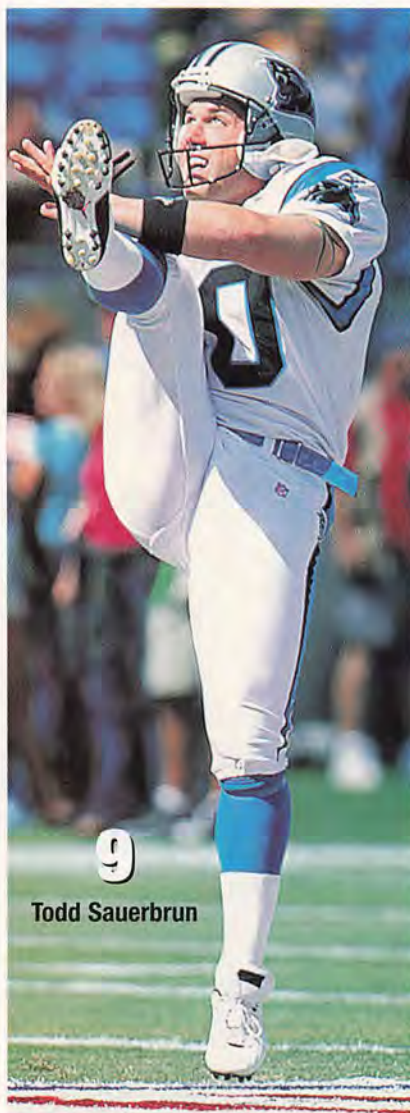
T5. Brad Maynard, Bears

6-1 182 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Puts good hang time on kicks, has above-average leg strength and does an excellent job of kicking within the coverage. Shows outstanding directional skills and the ability to kick away from dangerous return men and pin opposing teams deep.

Weaknesses: Lets the ball get too close to his body at times and must do a better job of getting rid of it quickly.

Bottom line: His a great combination of strength and accuracy. Benefits from an excellent cover team and seems to be gaining confidence and getting better with experience. **GRADE: 8.0**



Todd Sauerbrun

BOB LEVERONE / TSN

T5. Josh Miller, Steelers

6-4 220 Age: 32 7th year

Strengths: Has a strong leg. Puts velocity and distance on ball and has excellent hang time. Places ball well inside the 20 and can direct balls. Has good overall mechanics and physical skills. Handles pressure situations and has a quick release.

Weaknesses: Age is a concern. At times he has been in coach Bill Cowher's doghouse.

Bottom line: Handles winds and unusual weather conditions at Heinz Field well. Continues to punt with good overall skills, and team has confidence in him. **GRADE: 8.0**

T5. Ken Walter, Patriots

6-1 195 Age: 30 6th year

Strengths: Does an excellent job of placing the ball inside the opponent's 20-yard line. Gets good hang time. Is very dependable. Allows his coverage teams to get downfield and make plays.

Weaknesses: Does not have great leg strength.

Bottom line: Gets more height on his punts

than any other punter in the NFL, and the Patriots have outstanding cover teams. A good combination. **GRADE: 8.0**

T9. Tom Rouen, Broncos

6-3 225 Age: 34 10th year

Strengths: Gets good hang time on his kicks. Shows the ability to adjust to the bad snap and still get the ball away quickly. Is clutch under pressure.

Weaknesses: Often will outkick the cover teams. Lacks ideal directional kicking skills. Does not show the ability consistently to pin teams deep.

Bottom line: If he corrects his weaknesses, he could be one of the best punters in the league. **GRADE: 7.9**

T9. Todd Sauerbrun, Panthers

5-10 211 Age: 29 8th year

Strengths: Has a huge leg and gets great hangtime. Does a great job of allowing his cover teams to get downfield to make a play. Is capable of kicking his team out of trouble. Showed much better control of punts last season.

Weaknesses: Inconsistency has taken away from overall effectiveness.

Bottom line: If he continues to improve his directional skills and overall consistency, he could develop into one of the NFL's better punters. **GRADE: 7.9**

T11. Sean Landeta, Eagles

6-0 215 Age: 40 18th year

Strengths: Is extremely consistent and has great technique. Has great control of his kicks, showing the ability to pin teams deep and keep the ball away from dangerous return men. Does a good job of kicking within the coverage and protecting his leg so he can boom the ball out of the zone when the situation arises.

Weaknesses: Is aging, and leg strength is on the decline.

Bottom line: Is nearing the end of career but knows how to mask weaknesses and remains very consistent. **GRADE: 7.8**

T11. Matt Turk, Jets

6-5 250 Age: 34 8th year

Strengths: Has excellent leg strength and gets great distance on his kicks. Is outstanding deep in his own territory and can kick the team out of trouble. Does a good job getting rid of the ball quickly.

Weaknesses: Must do a better job getting hang time to allow cover teams to get downfield. Age is becoming a concern.

Bottom line: Should be an improvement, but this is a team that must win the field-position battle. Must give cover teams a chance to make the play. **GRADE: 7.8**

T13. John Jett, Lions

6-0 197 Age: 33 10th year

Strengths: Is accurate, pins teams deep and rarely kicks the ball into the end zone. Has good size and a quick release. Gets adequate hang time. Kicks well within the coverage.

Weaknesses: Lacks premier leg strength and

struggles when kicking from deep in his end of the field.

Bottom line: Is one of the league's more consistent punters and should be strong for at least three more years. **GRADE: 7.7**

T13. Hunter Smith, Colts

6-2 212 Age: 25 4th year

Strengths: Gets outstanding distance on his kicks. Gets excellent leg extension. Does a good job under pressure. Can kick in bad weather.

Weaknesses: Is streaky. Hang time is inconsistent. Isn't able consistently to pin opposing teams deep.

Bottom line: Because the Colts' defense has struggled, it is imperative that Smith be able to back opposing teams up. **GRADE: 7.7**

T15. Darren Bennett, Chargers

6-5 235 Age: 37 8th year

Strengths: Has outstanding leg power, good leg whip and great placement skills. Keeps himself in good physical condition and is a solid, all-around athlete. Is consistent and gets excellent hang time on his kicks. Is one of the better pooch punters in the NFL. Does well under pressure.

Weaknesses: Age is becoming a concern, but is has yet to take a toll on his play.

Bottom line: One of the better all-around punters who consistently puts the defense in good position. **GRADE: 7.6**

T15. Chris Gardocki, Browns

6-1 200 Age: 32 12th year

Strengths: Has good size and impressive resiliency; did not wear down despite averaging 104 punts over last three seasons. Gets good height on his kicks with excellent hang time. Has shown improved ability to place the ball inside the 20. Has one of league's strongest legs.

Weaknesses: Needs to work on consistency and maintain control of his kicks.

Bottom line: Lack of consistency is only thing that keeps him from becoming one of NFL's elite punters. **GRADE: 7.6**

17. Chris Hanson, Jaguars

6-1 214 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Leftfooter has a strong leg, excellent follow-through and gets pretty good height on his kicks. Handles the snap well.

Weaknesses: Must work on his directional skills and putting the ball inside the 20.

Bottom line: After several stops, it appears he has found a home in Jacksonville. But he must be more consistent. **GRADE: 7.5**

18. Micah Knorr, Cowboys

6-2 199 Age: 27 2nd year

Strengths: Has good size, a powerful leg and generally gets good hang time. Does a nice job kicking within the coverage.

Weaknesses: Was inconsistent as a rookie in 2000 and took a step back last season. Needs to learn how to kick away from dangerous return men and pin teams deep.

Bottom line: Has struggled because of poor snapping and blocking in the past, but things

could change with the arrival of new long snapper Jeff Robinson. **GRADE: 7.4**

T19. Bryan Barker, Redskins

6-2 200 Age: 38 13th year

Strengths: Is reliable and experienced. Does a good job kicking within the coverage and has shown the ability to pin teams deep in their zone.

Weaknesses: Has inconsistent leg strength; occasionally drives the ball but generally does not put great distance on kicks. Probably doesn't have more than a year or two left before leg strength starts to decline significantly.

Bottom line: Rarely makes mistakes and shows good accuracy on kicks but lacks ideal leg strength. **GRADE: 7.2**

T19. Chris Mohr, Falcons

6-5 215 Age: 36 13th year

Strengths: Has improved his accuracy and ability to pin teams inside the 20. Gets good hang time and does nice job of punting within his coverage.

Weaknesses: Has lost a lot of power in his leg. Is unable to make an impact on the game.

Bottom line: Will not make a lot of mistakes and should be adequate for one more season, but the Falcons need to address this position before 2003. **GRADE: 7.2**

T19. Kyle Richardson, Vikings

6-2 210 Age: 29 6th year

Strengths: Displays excellent mechanics and is very consistent. One of the best directional kickers in the league who can pin teams deep and keep the ball away from dangerous return men. Gets good hang time on kicks and allows the cover teams to get downfield and make the play.

Weaknesses: Has adequate but not great leg strength.

Bottom line: Although his average dropped last season, he still is one of the more effective punters in the league. Should have a strong first season as a Viking. **GRADE: 7.2**

T19. Dan Stryzinski, Chiefs

6-2 200 Age: 37 13th year

Strengths: Is consistent and experienced.

Does an excellent job of kicking away from dangerous return men and can pin opposing teams deep. Gets good hang time on kicks and allows cover teams to get downfield. Does not give up a lot of long returns.

Weaknesses: Lacks elite leg strength and cannot kick team out of trouble.

Bottom line: Is an excellent directional kicker who rarely makes mistakes. **GRADE: 7.2**

23. Josh Bidwell, Packers

6-3 220 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Has excellent leg strength and gets great hang time when he strikes the ball correctly.

Weaknesses: Has inconsistent mechanics. Doesn't always punt within coverage. Overall accuracy and directional skills are less than

average.

Bottom line: Has had a roller-coaster career because of a battle with cancer in 1999 but still can be an effective punter if he improves his consistency and mechanics. **GRADE: 7.1**

T24. Toby Gowin, Saints

5-10 167 Age: 27 6th year

Strengths: Has a big leg. Can handle kickoffs. Has good hang time to support coverage.

Weaknesses: Is one of the smallest punters in the NFL. Struggles with consistency and control. Does a poor job overall of pinning teams inside the 20. Kickoff duties might be beginning to take a toll.

Bottom line: Probably would benefit from focusing on just punting. **GRADE: 7.0**

T24. Nick Harris, Bengals

6-2 220 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent leg strength. Shows the ability to kick team out of trouble when pinned deep and does a good job of allowing the cover team to get downfield by getting good hang time.

Weaknesses: Does not have great directional skills and does not show ability consistently to pin teams deep. Needs to do a better job of getting the ball off quickly.

Bottom line: Solid punter who has the potential to be one of the best in the league with improved directional skills. **GRADE: 7.0**

T24. Mark Royals, Dolphins

6-5 225 Age: 37 14th year

Strengths: Is solid and dependable. Gets the ball away quickly, making it difficult for opposing teams to set up and giving his cover teams an opportunity to get downfield. Can pin teams deep.

Weaknesses: Lacks premier leg strength; can't kick the team out of trouble.

Bottom line: His consistency and ability to pin teams deep should keep him in the league a few more years. **GRADE: 7.0**

T27. Jason Baker, 49ers

6-1 195 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Has a strong leg.

Weaknesses: Was inconsistent as a rookie last season; did not always strike the ball well and his hang time fluctuated greatly. Kicked a lot of low line drives that were easily returned. Must improve directional skills and ability to pin teams deep.

Bottom line: Flashed potential but must improve consistency and mechanics. **GRADE: 6.8**

T27. John Baker, Texans

6-3 223 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Has a strong leg and gets great distance on kicks. Shows the ability to kick team out of trouble when pinned deep.

Weaknesses: Inconsistency is biggest weakness. Kicks too many line drives and needs to improve hang time so cover teams can get downfield. Is not a great directional kicker and does not show the ability to consistently

pin teams deep.

Bottom line: Needs to have a big year for a team that must win field-position battle. Must improve his hang time. **GRADE: 6.8**

127. Brian Moorman, Bills

6-0 180 Age: 26 2nd year

Strengths: Does a nice job getting rid of the ball quickly, has good leg strength and his accuracy generally is good.

Weaknesses: Mechanics are unconventional. When he tries to punt the ball a long way, he struggles to control it. Kicks lack hang-time; must give the coverage team more time to get downfield.

Bottom line: Has the leg strength and athleticism to be productive, but must improve ability to kick out of trouble, pin teams deep in their zone and overall consistency. **GRADE: 6.8**

30. Tom Tupa, Buccaneers

6-4 225 Age: 36 13th year

Strengths: Has a quick release and good control over punts. A solid athlete who has great size and experience as a backup quarterback.

Weaknesses: Leg strength and overall consistency are declining.

Bottom line: In reality, Tupa no longer can perform as an emergency quarterback, so he must prove he can punt as well as he has in the past. **GRADE: 6.7**

31. Rodney Williams, Giants

6-0 178 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has excellent leg strength. Has improved in technique, approach and accuracy.

Weaknesses: Extremely inconsistent. Must improve ability to kick within the coverage and pin teams deep in their own zone.

Bottom line: Has one of the strongest legs in the league. He continues to improve, and consistency should get better because he is healthy. **GRADE: 6.3**

32. Chad Stanley, Texans

6-3 205 Age: 26 4th year

Failed to leave a positive impression on the 49ers or the Cardinals, but his strong leg and good hang time give him a chance to stick with Houston. **GRADE: 5.7**

33. Lee Johnson, free agent

6-2 200 Age: 40 17th year

Faded badly with the Vikings at the end of last season, which was not too surprising considering he has been kicking in the NFL since 1985. His great hang times of the past are beginning to give way to line drives. **GRADE: 5.6**

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Dave Zastudil, Ravens

6-3 225 Ohio, 4th round

Leftfooted punter has a strong leg and gets the ball off quickly. His Ability to handle long attempts and pressure of pros are concerns. **GRADE: 5.2**

2. Travis Dorsch, Bengals

6-6 221 Purdue, 4th round

Has great size and leg strength and does an excellent job on kickoffs. Though his accuracy has improved, he's still inconsistent. Can handle punting duties in an emergency, but his overall mechanics need work. **GRADE: 3.5**

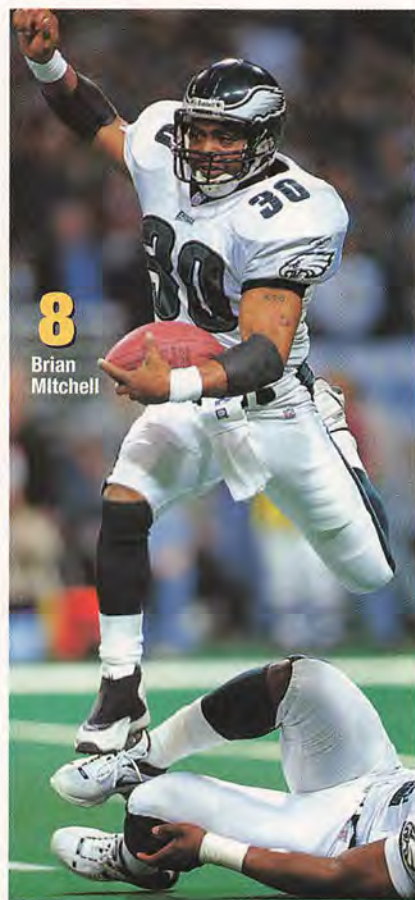
3. Craig Jarrett, Seahawks

6-2 215 Michigan State, 6th round

Gets great height, distance and hang time. Also contributes in covering punts. Needs to work on improving his release time. Has a strong enough leg to push for the job, perhaps this season, in Seattle. **GRADE: 3.4**

RETURN MEN

Players are listed in this section only if their primary contributions are as return men. Other players who return kicks are listed at their natural positions.



8

Brian Mitchell

VETERANS

1. Steve Smith, Panthers

5-9 179 Age: 23 2nd year

Strengths: Is small and lightning quick. Has good straight-line speed and shows a second gear in the open field. Shows ability to hold onto the ball and looks comfortable fielding punts in traffic.

Weaknesses: Will try to make too many things happen. Is inexperienced and takes

some chances.

Bottom line: The question is whether he can handle returning punts and kickoffs and being the nickel wide receiver. If he wears down, his primary duty will be as a punt return specialist. **GRADE: 8.5**

2. Reggie Swinton, Cowboys

6-0 175 Age: 27 1st year

Strengths: Is tough for his size and isn't afraid to get upfield. Makes quick decisions and will attack the seam. Has shown flashes of big-play ability. Does not play a big role on offense, so is always rested and ready to return a kick.

Weaknesses: Does not have great height and is a bit lanky. Does not have great straight-line speed. Has had problems holding on to the ball.

Bottom line: Is emerging as one of the league's most dangerous, productive return men despite a lack of blazing speed. **GRADE: 8.3**

T3. Desmond Howard, Lions

5-10 185 Age: 32 11th year

Strengths: Has great quickness, vision, patience and initial burst. Is a big-play threat.

Weaknesses: Is aging and starting to lose breakaway speed. Durability is a growing concern. Production was down last season.

Bottom line: Might lose some opportunities to Larry Foster and Az-Zahir Hakim. **GRADE: 8.0**

T3. Ronney Jenkins, Chargers

5-11 188 Age: 25 3rd year

Strengths: Is a very smooth and has excellent vision and a feel for finding the seam. Has burst, explosiveness and breakaway speed. Has dependable hands and can make big plays.

Weaknesses: Is not a big or physical player. Is reluctant to run the ball up the middle of the field.

Bottom line: Because of his exceptional speed and athleticism, he should be a force as a return man for years. **GRADE: 8.0**

T3. Jermaine Lewis, Texans

5-7 180 Age: 27 7th year

Strengths: Has outstanding speed and athleticism. Shows great vision; when he sees a hole, he explodes through it. Shows excellent elusiveness and the ability to make defenders miss in the open field.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and fearless, so durability always will be a concern. Is not a powerful runner and will not break many tackles. Will play a bigger role on offense with the Texans.

Bottom line: One of the best in the league.

Will need to have a big year because the offense likely will struggle to put points on the board. **GRADE: 8.0**

6. Allen Rossum, Falcons

5-8 178 Age: 26 5th year

Strengths: Has excellent hands and is reliable at catching punts. Shows good burst and

overall quickness. Displays excellent elusiveness and will make a lot of defenders miss in the open field.

Weaknesses: Is young and needs to stay healthy. Is undersized, and durability is a concern. Wears down late in games.

Bottom line: Has the tools to contribute but must be healthy and on the field. **GRADE: 7.9**

7. Terry Kirby, Raiders

6-1 215 Age: 32 9th year

Strengths: Has good field vision and makes defenders miss in tight spaces. Versatile and instinctive. Catches the ball naturally and is consistently productive as a return specialist. Sure-handed while handling kickoff returns. Wastes no motion and hits the hole at full speed.

Weaknesses: Lacks explosive quickness and great speed.

Bottom line: A reliable, backup running back who makes plays as a receiver, too. Not a long-term answer for returning kicks, but he has a knack for giving the Raiders good field position. **GRADE: 7.5**

8. Brian Mitchell, Eagles

5-10 221 Age: 34 13th year

Strengths: Still a shifty runner who has excellent vision, patience and feel for the return game. Has the elusiveness to make the first defender miss.

Weaknesses: Has lost some speed with age. No longer has a second gear in the open field or the leg drive to gain yards after contact. Had some trouble holding on to the ball last season.

Bottom line: Is still a serviceable returner but isn't as explosive as he was. **GRADE: 7.4**

9. Tamarick Vanover, Chargers

5-11 222 Age: 28 6th year

Strengths: Is capable of making big plays. Has great vision, an impressive burst and good running skills in the open field. Has good hands and handles pressure well.

Weaknesses: Has been out of football for two years, so it's possible some of his skills have eroded. At the least, they are rusty.

Bottom line: If he can regain his big-play abilities, he'll provide the Chargers with an exciting alternative to Tim Dwight, who will be rested more if he's a full-time receiver. **GRADE: 7.0**

T10. Michael Bates, Panthers

5-10 189 Age: 32 10th year

Strengths: Has good elusiveness and shows the ability to make defenders miss in the open field. Shows an excellent burst and does a good job of getting upfield quickly. Has elite vision, instincts and experience as a return man.

Weaknesses: Is on the downside of career. Lacks ideal size, and durability is a concern. Is far more effective returning kickoffs than punts. Also listed as a running back but has only 12 carries in his career.

Bottom line: Five-time Pro Bowl return man should who should give the Panthers a

potent kickoff returner. Is not a long-term answer. **GRADE: 6.9**

T10. Frank Murphy, Buccaneers

6-0 206 Age: 25 2nd year

Strengths: Has good speed and does a nice job of getting upfield. Protects the ball and gets whatever is available.

Weaknesses: Ability to change direction needs work. Lacks great elusiveness. Doesn't have a flair for making big plays. Must work on his skills as a wide receiver.

Bottom line: A former running back who has more value as a return specialist than as a receiver. Must improve on making defenders miss in the open field to keep starting job. **GRADE: 6.9**

T10. Michael Lewis, Saints

5-8 165 Age: 30 1st year

Strengths: Has good natural speed and quickness. Has good burst and shows a second gear when hitting the crease.

Weaknesses: Is undersized. Is not sure-handed enough to handle punt-return duty.

Bottom line: Can be used on kickoff returns to take some of the pressure off running back Deuce McAllister. **GRADE: 6.9**

T10. Charlie Rogers, Bills

5-9 179 Age: 26 3rd year

Strengths: Shows ideal change of direction skills and excellent elusiveness in the open field. Has great initial burst and gets upfield quickly. Has good instincts and does a good job of locating seams.

Weaknesses: Is undersized and has problems staying healthy. Needs to do a better job of securing the ball and does not always make good decisions.

Bottom line: Is an undersized return man who lacks great speed. Is effective because of his ability to make defenders miss in the open field. **GRADE: 6.9**

T10. Vinny Sutherland, 49ers

5-8 188 Age: 24 2nd year

Strengths: Shows some elusiveness in the open field and has good quickness.

Weaknesses: Needs to do a better job of allowing blocks to develop. Has only average speed and acceleration in the open field. Is not a powerful runner and won't break many tackles. There are concerns about his reliability on and off the field.

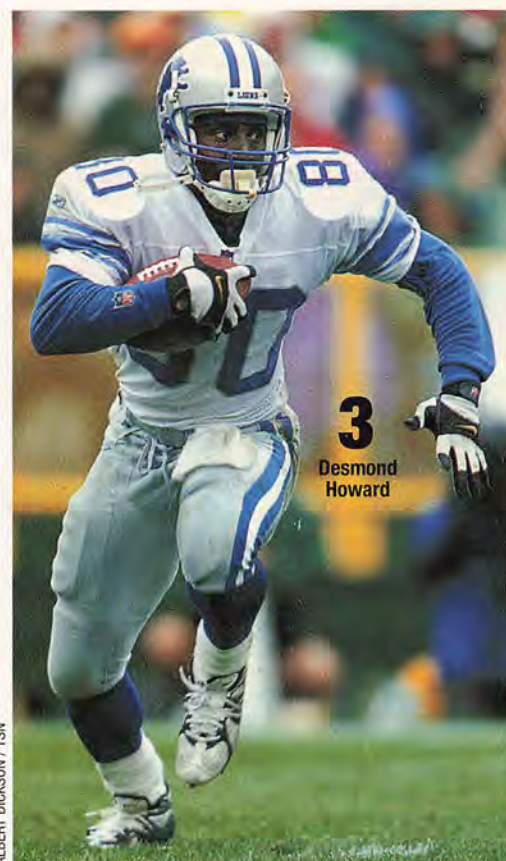
Bottom line: Good but not exceptional return specialist who has good change of direction skills but needs to improve his patience. Would benefit from improved blocking in front of him. **GRADE: 6.9**

15. David Allen, Vikings

5-9 195 Age: 24 1st year

Strengths: Possesses good straight-line speed and nearly is impossible to catch from behind. Has excellent change of direction skills and shows good elusiveness in the open field. Does a good job of getting upfield quickly.

Weaknesses: Was cut by the 49ers last season and has little experience. Is undersized, and



3
Desmond
Howard

durability is somewhat of a concern. Does not always make good decisions and is inconsistent.

Bottom line: Flashes big-play ability and should improve with time. **GRADE: 6.7**

16. Dante Hall, Chiefs

5-8 193 Age: 24 3rd year

Strengths: Has good overall quickness and shows the ability to avoid blocks in the open field. Has excellent speed and a burst through the hole. Speed gives him a chance to make big plays.

Weaknesses: Doesn't break a lot of tackles because of lack of size. Has to get an open crease to be successful.

Bottom line: Will need to make more big plays to keep his job. **GRADE: 6.4**

17. Damon Gibson, Jaguars

5-9 184 Age: 27 3rd year

Strengths: Is more quick than fast. Has good vision and changes direction well. Can weave his way through traffic.

Weaknesses: Doesn't have much burst or explosiveness.

Bottom line: A dependable return man who has no big-play ability. **GRADE: 6.3**

18. Troy Walters, Colts

5-7 173 Age: 25 3rd year

Shows an explosive burst and runs with excellent balance. Has good change of direction skills and the ability to make the defender miss in the open field. Lacks the pure speed to outrun defenders. Is undersized, and durability is a concern. **GRADE: 5.9**

ROOKIE

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Lamont Brightful, Ravens

5-10 170 Eastern Washington, 6th round

Can cut and avoid tackles and has good burst. Is enough of a playmaker that team is comfortable with him returning punts. **GRADE: 3.0**

LONG SNAPPERS

Some teams' long snappers are not listed in this section because they are listed at their natural positions.

VETERANS

1. Jeff Robinson, Cowboys

6-4 275 Age: 32 10th year

Puts strong velocity on snaps and is extremely accurate. Isn't likely to make a mistake in a clutch situation. Has a lot of experience. Is versatile enough to provide quality depth at tight end. **GRADE: 9.6**

2. Patrick Mannely, Bears

6-5 269 Age: 27 5th year

Has an explosive zip on his snaps and better than average accuracy. Did not make a critical error the past four seasons. Is clearly one of the top cover long snappers in the league—has good speed and can tackle in the open field. Has good size as a blocker and is experienced and technically sound in all areas. Though listed as a reserve center, he has no experience as an offensive lineman. **GRADE: 9.5**

3. Brian Jennings, 49ers

6-5 245 Age: 25 3rd year

Has adequate size and puts good zip on snaps. Accuracy has been excellent and has shown no signs of changing mechanics under pressure. Is a good athlete who will get downfield and is an adequate tackler. Has had no critical errors. **GRADE: 8.3**

T4. Ethan Albright, Redskins

6-5 268 Age: 31 8th year

Was one of the league's best long snappers before last season, but velocity and cover skills significantly dropped. Is still accurate and does not make critical mistakes, but does not play a position, something the Redskins' new coaching staff wants in its long snapper. **GRADE: 7.8**

T4. James Dearth, Jets

6-4 270 Age: 26 2nd year

Rarely makes mistakes. Puts good zip on the ball. Has excellent size. Does not have great speed or athletic ability. Does not make plays in coverage. Is versatile enough to provide depth at tight end. **GRADE: 7.8**

6. Mike Bartrum, Eagles

6-4 245 Age: 32 9th year

Has been solid as the Eagles' long snapper the past two seasons. Lacks great velocity on snaps but is accurate and consistent. Is a good athlete, works to get downfield and will make a lot more plays covering punts than most long snappers. **GRADE: 7.7**

T7. Brad Banta, Lions

6-6 255 Age: 31 9th year

Is solid but a notch below the NFL's best. Rarely misses his target but doesn't have the quickest release or the most zip on the ball. Is one of the top cover long snappers. **GRADE: 7.5**

T7. J.P. Darche, Seahawks

6-0 239 Age: 27 3rd year

Is consistently accurate on the kicking and punting teams. Does not have the strongest zip but is technically sound, and his snaps are very catchable. Gets downfield and gives a great effort in coverage. **GRADE: 7.5**

T7. Lonie Paxton, Patriots

6-2 260 Age: 24 3rd year

Gets great velocity on his snaps and is consistent. Lacks the speed to get downfield and is not good in space. Is adequate overall. **GRADE: 7.5**

10. Rob Davis, Packers

6-3 286 Age: 33 7th year

Has one of the strongest zips of any long snapper in the league. Is an upper-echelon blocker. Doesn't have great speed and doesn't chase down a lot of guys in coverage but always is in position and rarely makes a mistake in terms of angles and assignments. Had problems with accuracy last season. **GRADE: 7.4**

T11. David Binn, Chargers

6-3 245 Age: 30 9th year

Snaps are fast and accurate. Handles pressure well. His cover skills are beginning to diminish. Is capable and dependable. **GRADE: 7.3**

T11. Derek Rackley, Falcons

6-4 250 Age: 25 3rd year

Has one of the strongest snaps in the league and generally is accurate, but occasionally will just miss the spot. Is athletic and will get downfield and cover. **GRADE: 7.3**

T13. Kevin Houser, Saints

6-2 250 Age: 25 3rd year

Has good zip on snaps. Shows potential in coverage. Has good mechanics. Misses to the right or left too often, forcing the punter to adjust. Doubles as a backup fullback but will not see the field on offense. **GRADE: 7.0**

T13. Ryan Kuehl, Browns

6-5 290 Age: 30 6th year

Is extremely accurate. Can deliver the ball on a rope. Is a good blocker. Does not contribute in coverage. Tends to lose interest after blocking rushers. Snaps the ball well and knows how to protect the punter. **GRADE: 7.0**

T13. Joe Maese, Ravens

6-0 241 Age: 23 2nd year

Gets excellent velocity on the ball. Rarely has a bad snap. Is not overly athletic and will not contribute much on cover teams. Is not a big, physical guy who holds up after the snap. Delivers a solid snap every time. Should play this role for the Ravens for a long time. **GRADE: 7.0**

T13. Mike Schneck, Steelers

6-1 246 Age: 25 4th year

Puts decent velocity on snaps. Rarely has a bad snap and puts ball in catchable place for punter. Does not always have perfect accuracy. Poor cover guy after the snap because he lacks necessary speed. A solid long snapper, but the Steelers would be wise to look for an upgrade in this position with a player more capable of covering kicks. **GRADE: 7.0**

T13. Justin Snow, Colts

6-3 234 Age: 25 3rd year

Is accurate. Does a good job getting downfield and into coverage. Doesn't have ideal zip on snaps, and lacks size and athleticism. Doesn't make many mistakes and is improving. **GRADE: 7.0**

T18. Kendall Gammon, Chiefs

6-4 258 Age: 33 11th year

Puts the ball on a rope and is accurate. Cover skills are above average. Rarely gets off a bad snap and is consistent. Is a better athlete than most long snappers. Durability might become a concern soon. Shows no signs of slowing and will continue to provide his team with solid production. **GRADE: 6.7**

T18. Joe Zelenka, Jaguars

6-3 280 Age: 26 4th year

Snaps are fast and accurate. Is dependable and always puts ball in a good spot. Cover skills have improved, but he never will be a great cover guy. **GRADE: 6.7**

20. Sean McDermott, Texans

6-4 250 Age: 25 2nd year

Is inexperienced but shows the ability to put velocity on the ball and shows good accuracy at times. Will do a good job of covering downfield but is inconsistent and does not provide depth at another position. **GRADE: 5.9**

21. Brad St. Louis, Bengals

6-3 247 Age: 26 3rd year

Solid snapper who does a good job of covering downfield. Shows good accuracy and adequate velocity on snaps. Provides depth at tight end. **GRADE: 5.8**

T22. Brody Heffner-Liddiard, Vikings

6-4 250 Age: 25 2nd year

Is reliable and shows good velocity and accuracy. Lacks size, strength and receiving skills to provide depth at tight end or any other roster spot. **GRADE: 5.7**

T22. Dan O'Leary, Bills

6-3 248 Age: 25 2nd year

Flashes excellent velocity and accuracy on snaps. Too inconsistent and inexperienced to be considered one of the best. Provides adequate depth at tight end. **GRADE: 5.7**

24. David Diaz-Infante, Broncos

6-3 296 Age: 38 5th year

No longer has the quickness to be effective as a backup along the offensive line. Has adequate velocity on snaps but is inconsistent. **GRADE: 5.6**

25. Jason Kyle, Panthers

6-3 242 Age: 30 8th year

Has outstanding accuracy and zip. Has done a good job under pressure. Speed and overall cover skills have diminished. Remains an aggressive and intelligent cover guy. **GRADE: 5.5**

ROOKIES

Each rookie's grade is his college grade. The War Room does not give rookies pro grades until after their first season.

1. Jeff Grau, Redskins

6-3 246 UCLA, 7th round

Was an excellent long snapper in college, putting great velocity on ball and showing good accuracy. Is listed as a tight end but lacks the speed, size and receiving ability to provide depth at that position. **GRADE: 3.1**

2. Chris Massey, Rams

6-0 235 Marshall, 7th round

Is undersized and can't play a second position. Is a strong blocker for his size who puts up great weight-room numbers. Shows good accuracy and velocity on snaps and can be very aggressive and productive in coverage. **GRADE: 3.0**

Rabih Abdullah, RB	28	Charlie Batch, QB	15	Kyle Brady, TE	55	Lamar Campbell, S	148	Roderick Coleman, DE	92	James Dearth, LS	164	Carlos Emmons, OLB	122	C. Fuamatu-Ma'afala, RB	27
Donnie Abraham, CB	132	D'Wayne Bates, WR	47	Tom Brady, QB	12	Mark Campbell, TE	57	Laveranues Coles, WR	43	Derrick Deese, OT	63	John Engelberger, DE	93	Scott Fujita, OLB	130
John Abraham, DE	88	Michael Bates, KR	163	Rich Braham, C	83	Matt Campbell, G	79	Stalin Colinet, DT	108	Jake Delhomme, QB	19	Bobby Engram, WR	47	Mondriel Fulcher, TE	58
Tom Ackerman, G	79	Marco Battaglia, TE	57	Deion Branch, WR	52	Pete Camplin, G	79	Calvin Collins, G	79	Jerry DeLoach, DT	111	Hayden Epstein, K	159	Corey Fuller, CB	134
Flozell Adams, OT	63	Patrick Batteaux, WR	50	Sam Brandon, S	155	Trung Candidate, RB	27	Kerry Collins, G	79	Rick DeMulling, G	98	Demetric Evans, DE	98	Curtis Fuller, S	154
Sam Adams, DT	111	Ainsley Battles, S	150	David Brandt, C	86	James Cannida, DT	110	McAllister Collins, OT	67	Anthony Denman, OLB	128	Doug Evans, CB	136	Oronde Gadsden, WR	43
Chidi Ahanotu, DE	97	Rashad Bauman, CB	144	Blake Bratzke, DE	90	Cooper Carlisle, OT	69	Mike Collins, DT	112	Ryan Denney, DE	99	Heath Evans, FB	35	Jabar Gaffney, WR	51
David Akers, K	156	Fred Baxter, TE	57	Drew Brees, QB	15	Jon Carman, OT	69	Mo Collins, G	79	Pat Dennis, CB	140	Joey Evans, DE	99	Teddy Gaines, CB	144
Ethan Albright, LS	164	Gary Baxter, CB	139	Sean Brewer, TE	57	Giovanni Carmazzi, QB	19	Todd Collins, QB	18	Koy Detmer, QB	17	Josh Evans, DT	111	Joey Galloway, WR	43
Allen Aldridge, ILB	116	Jarrod Baxter, FB	37	Doug Brien, K	158	John Carney, K	157	Marc Colombo, OT	70	Ty Detmer, QB	18	Jason Fabin, OT	63	Scott Galyon, OLB	128
Brent Alexander, S	149	Robert Bean, CB	138	O.J. Brigrance, OLB	129	Keion Carpenter, S	150	Rosevelt Colvin, OLB	122	Jared DeVries, DE	93	Demarcus Faggins, CB	144	Trent Gamble, S	153
Dan Alexander, RB	28	Aaron Beasley, CB	134	Jeremy Brigham, TE	57	David Carr, QB	20	Chris Combs, DE	96	David Diaz-Infante, LS	164	Alan Faneqa, G	102	Kendall Gammon, LS	164
Derrick Alexander, WR	45	Chad Beasley, DT	112	Lamont Brightful, KR	164	Leonardo Carson, DT	106	Greg Comella, FB	34	Dave Dickenson, QB	19	Danny Farmer, WR	48	Mike Gandy, G	78
Elijah Alexander, OLB	129	Fred Beasley, FB	32	Raheem Brock, DE	99	Dwayne Carswell, TE	55	Mike Compton, G	79	Ryan Diem, G	75	James Farrior, ILB	115	Wayne Gandy, OT	64
Shaun Alexander, RB	23	Anthony Becht, TE	54	Chad Brockermeier, DT	64	Robert Carswell, S	152	Billy Conaty, C	85	Na'il Diggs, OLB	124	Kris Farris, OT	70	Rich Gannon, QB	12
Stephen Alexander, TE	54	Rogers Beckett, S	147	Lorenzo Bromell, DE	92	Andre Carter, DE	90	Albert Connell, WR	50	Trent Dillfer, QB	12	Randy Fasan, QB	20	Frank Garcia, C	84
Darnell Alford, G	78	Tony Beckham, CB	144	Zack Bronson, S	147	Chris Carter, S	151	Brett Conway, K	158	Ken Dilger, TE	54	Kevin Faulk, RB	28	Jeff Garcia, QB	11
Brian Allen, RB	31	Brad Bedell, G	78	Keith Brookings, ILB	113	Marty Carter, DE	94	Curtis Conway, WR	42	Corey Dillon, RB	23	Marshall Faulk, RB	22	Daryl Gardner, DT	103
David Allen, KR	163	Monty Beisel, ILB	119	Jason Brookins, RB	27	Ki-Jana Carter, RB	30	Ernie Conwell, TE	55	Gennaro DiNapoli, C	83	Christian Fauria, TE	55	Barry Gardner, ILB	116
James Allen, RB	30	Jason Bell, CB	143	Aaron Brooks, QB	12	Marty Carter, S	153	Damion Cook, OT	69	Adrian Dingle, DE	96	Greg Favors, OLB	126	Rod Gardner, WR	43
James Allen, OLB	130	Kendrell Bell, ILB	114	Barrett Brooks, OT	62	Quincy Carter, QB	14	Jameel Cook, FB	36	Chris Dishman, G	75	Brett Favre, OT	10	Chris Gardocki, P	161
Larry Allen, G	71	Marcus Bell, DT	109	Bobby Brooks, ILB	118	Tim Carter, WR	52	Michael Cook, OT	70	David Dixon, G	74	Jeff Feagles, P	160	Kelvin Garmon, G	76
Taje Allen, CB	140	Marcus Bell, OLB	128	Derrick Brooks, OLB	120	Tony Carter, FB	36	Rashad Cook, S	151	Gerald Dixon, OLB	125	A.J. Feeley, QB	18	Charlie Garner, RB	24
Terry Allen, RB	30	Myron Bell, S	154	Jamal Brooks, ILB	119	Tyrone Carter, S	150	Chris Cooper, DT	109	Mark Dixon, G	72	Jay Feely, K	158	Sam Gaines, S	149
Will Allen, CB	136	Jay Bellamy, S	148	Rodriguez Brooks, CB	143	Rock Cartwright, FB	37	Jarrod Cooper, S	154	Ron Dixon, WR	48	Jarrett Ferguson, FB	37	Winfield Garnett, DT	109
Mike Alstott, FB	32	Steve Bellisari, S	155	Luther Broughton, TE	57	Johndale Carty, S	151	Jose Cortez, K	158	Tony Dixon, S	153	Jason Ferguson, DT	104	David Garrard, QB	20
Ashley Ambrose, CB	133	Jason Belser, S	151	Alex Brown, DE	99	Chris Cash, CB	144	Dave Costa, OT	65	Jason Doering, S	153	Nick Ferguson, S	154	Olandis Gary, RB	26
Matt Anderle, OT	70	Brandon Bennett, RB	27	Chad Brown, OLB	121	Quinton Caver, ILB	119	Chad Costa, S	153	Kevin Dogins, C	86	Robert Ferguson, WR	47	Robert Garza, C	84
Morten Andersen, K	158	Darren Bennett, P	161	Courtney Brown, DE	89	Kwame Cavil, WR	51	Tim Couch, QB	12	Brandon Doman, QB	20	Frank Ferrara, DE	98	Sam Gash, FB	37
Bennie Anderson, G	78	Drew Bennett, WR	49	Eric Brown, S	154	Larry Carter, FB	34	Terry Cousin, CB	123	Cedric Donaldson, CB	142	Bill Ferrario, G	80	Trevor Gaylor, WR	48
Damien Anderson, RB	31	Michael Bennett, RB	25	Gilbert Brown, DT	104	Matt Carone, TE	58	Sam Cowart, OLB	139	Kevin Donnalley, G	74	John Fiala, ILB	118	K. Gbaja-Biamila, DE	94
Gary Anderson, K	159	Sean Bennett, FB	37	Joe Brown, DT	111	Anthony Cesario, G	79	Delbert Cowsette, DT	111	Travis Dorsch, P	162	Jay Fiedler, QB	14	Corey Geason, TE	59
John Anderson, RB	25	Kevin Bentley, OLB	130	Kris Brown, CB	159	Byron Chamberlain, TE	56	Bryan Cox, ILB	117	Anthony Dorsett, S	151	Mark Fields, OLB	124	Eddie George, RB	24
Marques Anderson, S	155	LeCharles Bentley, G	80	Mike Brown, S	146	Frank Chamberlain, ILB	119	Renard Cox, CB	142	Char-ron Dorsey, OT	68	John Fina, OT	65	Joe Germaine, CB	19
Mike Anderson, FB	35	Mitch Berger, P	160	Na Brown, WR	49	Chris Chambers, WR	42	Jason Craft, CB	136	Earl Dotson, OT	67	Jim Finn, FB	35	Reggie Germany, WR	49
Richie Anderson, FB	35	Eddie Berlin, WR	50	Ralph Brown, CB	142	Derrick Chambers, G	79	Keyuo Craver, CB	143	Santana Dotson, DT	111	Brian Finneran, WR	45	Aaron Gibson, OT	68
Scotty Anderson, WR	50	Rocky Bernard, DT	112	Ray Brown, G	79	Chris Chandler, QB	14	Bryan Crawford, OT	67	Dameane Douglas, WR	50	Dave Fioere, G	72	Damon Gibson, KR	163
Willie Anderson, OT	61	Bert Berry, DE	98	Ruben Brown, G	71	Jeff Chandler, K	159	Casey Crawford, TE	59	Hugh Douglas, DE	89	Bryce Fisher, DT	108	David Gibson, S	154
Troy Andrew, C	86	Jerome Bettis, RB	23	Sheldon Brown, CB	144	Roger Chanoine, OT	67	Henri Crockett, ILB	116	Marques Douglas, DE	96	Levar Fisher, OLB	130	Derrick Gibson, S	149
Joe Andruzzi, G	77	LaDell Betts, RB	31	Tim Brown, WR	40	Doug Chapman, RB	27	Ray Crockett, CB	139	Pat Downey, C	86	Tony Fisher, RB	31	Oliver Gibson, DT	105
Mark Anelli, TE	60	Steve Beuerlein, QB	15	Travis Brown, QB	20	Terry Charles, WR	52	Zach Crockett, FB	36	Eric Downing, DT	105	Travis Fisher, CB	144	Sean Gilbert, DT	103
Reidel Anthony, WR	48	Eric Beverly, C	83	Troy Brown, WR	40	Martin Chase, DT	108	Clifton Crosby, CB	142	Chris Draft, ILB	116	Jason Fisk, DT	103	Jason Gildon, OLB	122
Adam Arquette, S	147	Martin Bida, G	80	John Brownning, DT	108	Matt Chatham, ILB	119	Eric Crouch, WR	52	Shawn Draper, TE	59	Mike Flanagan, C	82	Robert Gillespie, RB	31
Jake Ariens, K	159	Josh Bidwell, P	161	Isaac Bruce, WR	38	Corey Chavous, CB	136	Germane Crowell, WR	43	Donald Driver, WR	48	Jim Flanigan, DT	111	Bryan Gilmore, WR	51
JoJuan Armour, S	152	Greg Biekert, ILB	114	Mark Bruener, TE	54	Je'Rod Cherry, S	153	Alge Crumpler, TE	55	Tony Driver, S	154	Zeron Flemister, TE	56	John Gilmore, TE	60
Jessie Armstead, OLB	121	Terrell Bierria, S	155	Mark Brunell, QB	11	Larry Chester, DT	103	Damonte Cuperper, QB	11	Shane Dronetti, DT	105	Ronald Flemmons, DE	98	David Givens, WR	52
Trace Armstrong, DE	91	David Binn, LS	164	Tedy Bruce, ILB	115	Darrin Chialaverini, WR	50	Alonzo Cunningham, G	80	Reuben Droughns, RB	30	Chris Gizzi, ILB	118	Chris Gizzi, ILB	118
LaVar Arrington, OLB	120	Cory Bird, S	149	Antonio Bryant, WR	51	Wayne Chrebet, WR	44	Randall Cunningham, QB	19	T.J. Duckett, RB	31	Jamar Fletcher, CB	141	Steve Gleason, S	154
Darryl Ashmore, G	78	Matt Birk, C	81	Fernando Bryant, CB	136	Bob Christian, FB	36	Donte Curry, OLB	129	Rickey Dudley, TE	55	London Fletcher, ILB	114	Aaron Glenn, CB	133
Larry Atkins, OLB	127	Blaine Bishop, S	146	Tony Bryant, DE	92	Steve Christie, K	158	Ronald Curry, QB	20	Ron Dugans, WR	45	Terrell Fletcher, RB	28	Jason Glenn, OLB	129
Alvin Atkinson, OLB	130	Avion Black, WR	51	Wendell Bryant, DT	112	Jeff Christy, C	83	Canute Curtis, ILB	117	Jamie Duncan, ILB	115	Erik Flowers, DE	97	Tarik Glenn, OT	62
Reggie Austin, CB	141	Willie Blade, DT	111	Shawn Bryson, RB	26	Patrick Chukwurah, OLB	126	Kevin Curtis, S	155	Jason Dunn, TE	58	Lee Flowers, S	148	Terry Glenn, WR	42
Akin Ayodele, CB	130	Kerlin Blaise, G	77	Doug Brzezinski, G	75	Chris Claiborne, ILB	114	Matt Cushing, TE	57	Warrick Dunn, RB	25	Richmond Flowers, WR	51	La'Ro'i Glover, DT	100
Jerry Azumah, CB	137	Jeff Blake, CB	135	Kendrick Clancy, DT	105	Travis Clark, OLB	116	Lional Dalton, DT	104	Tim Dwight, WR	45	Douglas Flutie, CB	144	Lavar Glover, CB	144
Billy Baber, TE	59	Derrick Blaylock, RB	30	Mike Clare, G	80	Brad Daluso, K	159	Phillip Daniels, DE	90	Nate Dwyer, DT	112	Mike Flynn, C	84	Randall Godfrey, ILB	114
Jeff Backus, OT	64	Drew Bledsoe, QB	11	Travis Claridge, G	76	Phillip Daniels, DE	90	Woodrow Danzler, RB	31	Deon Dyer, FB	36	Spencer Folau, OT	68	Mike Goff, G	76
Brad Badger, OT	67	Dre' Bly, CB	135	Danny Clark, OLB	127	Danny Clark, OLB	127	Donnovin Darius, S	148	Andre Dyson, CB	138	Steve Foley, OLB	121	Nick Goings, RB	30
Champ Bailey, CB	131	Chris Bober, OT	68	Desmond Clark, TE	56	Cam Cleeland, TE	56	James Darling, OLB	128	Kevin Dyson, WR	43	Omari Foy, FB	37	Jonu Fonoti, G	80
Rodney Bailey, DE	96	Rocky Boiman, OLB	130	Keith Bullock, OLB	124	Anthony Clement, OT	64	Joe Dean Davenport, FB	37	Andre Dyson, CB	138	Al Fontenot, DE	94	Jack Golden, OLB	129
Chris Baker, TE	60	Marty Booker, WR	40	Jim Bundren, G	80	Charles Clements, CB	133	Najeh Davenport, FB	37	Kevin Dyson, WR	43	Jeff Fontenot, C	84	Joquim Gonzalez, OT	70
Jason Baker, P	161	Vaughn Booker, DE	94	Seth Burford, QB	20	Nate Clements, CB	133	Rohan Davey, QB	20	Mike Echols, CB	144	Larry Foote, ILB	119	Tony Gonzalez, TE	53
John Baker, P	161	Alfonso Boone, DT	109	Derrick Burgess, DE	95	Charlie Clemons, ILB	115	Andra Davis, ILB	119	Paul Edinger, K	157	Henry Ford, DT	108	Jeff Gooch, OLB	127
Clenton Ballard, DT	112	Dorian Boose, DE	97	Rob Burnett, DE	90	Chad Clifton, OT	62	Andre Davis, WR	52	Antuan Edwards, S	150	Todd Fordham, OT	68	Andre Goodman, CB	144
Mike Banks, TE	60	Josh Booty, QB	19	Keith Burns, ILB	119	Rich Cloud, RB	28	Don Davis, OLB	125	Donnie Edwards, OLB	122	Jay Foreman, ILB	116	Kynan Forney, G	76
Tony Banks, QB	16	Jarvis Borum, OT	69	Plaxico Burress, WR	40	Mike Coody, S	151	Dorsett Davis, DT	112	Kalimba Edwards, FB	98	DeShaun Foster, RB	31	Hunter Goodwin, TE	56
Justin Bannan, DT	112	Alex Bowers, OT	64	Jeff Burris, CB	136	Dexter Coakley, OLB	121	Eric Davis, CB	142	Mario Edwards, CB	134	Robert Edwards, RB	31	Jonathan Goodwin, G	80
Alex Bannister, WR	50	David Boston, WR	39	Shane Burrough, DT	110	Antonio Cochran, DE	94	Leonard Davis, G	72	Ron Edwards, DT	110	Hank Fraley, C	84	Darrien Gordon, RB	143
Brad Banta, LS	164	Peter Bowware, OLB	121	Shane Burton, CB	106	Ty Cody, CB	138	Rob Davis, LS	164	Steve Edwards, OT	70	Brad Franklin, CB	144	Lamar Gordon, RB	31
Ronde Barber, CB	133	Matt Bowen, S	154	Devin Bush, S	153	George Coghill, S	154	Russell Davis, DT	105	Troy Edwards, WR	47	Bubba Franks, TE	54	Brandon Gorin, OT	67
Shawn Barber, OLB	124	David Bowens, DE	97	LeW Bush, OLB	126	Chris Cole, WR	50	Stephen Davis, DT	24	Ebenezer Ekuban, DE	93	Robert Fredrickson, OLB	123	Toby Gowin, P	161
Tiki Barber, RB	23	Tim Bowens, DT	108	Steve Bush, TE	59	Ben Coleman, G	79	Terrell Davis, RB	25 <td>Jason Elam, K</td> <td>156</td> <td>Antonio Freeman, WR</td> <td>46</td> <td>Scott Grahg, OT</td> <td>62</td>	Jason Elam, K	156	Antonio Freeman, WR	46	Scott Grahg, OT	62
Bryan Barker, P	161	R.J. Bowers, FB	37	Luke Butkus, C	86	Cooley Coleman, G	74	Thabiti Davis, WR	51	Jamin Elliott, WR	52	Arturo Freeman, S	146	Dan Goodspeed, DT	69
Kevin Barlow, RB	26	Fabien Bowmes, WR	51	Jerametrius Butler, CB	142	Fred Coleman, WR	47	Tyrone Davis, TE	59	Jumbo Elliott, OT	69	DeShaun Foster, RB	31	Jonathan Goodwin, G	80
Reggie Barlow, WR	50	James Boyd, S	152	Isaac Byrd, WR	46	KaRon Coleman, RB	30	Brian Dawkins, S	145	Ellis, OT	67	Greg Ellis, DE	90	Jeff Gooch, OLB	127
David Barrett, CB	137	Stephen Boyd, ILB	119	Glenn Cadrez, OLB	125	Kenyon Coleman, DE	99	Sean Dawkins, WR	47	Greg Ellis, DE	90	Gus Frerotte, QB	16	Scott Grahg, OT	62
Mike Barrow, ILB	115	Brant Boyer, ILB	117	Mike Caldwell, OLB	124	Marcus Coleman, DE	91	JaJuan Dawson, WR	48	Shaun Ellis, DE	92	Benn Fricke, G	79	Scott Grahg, OT	62
Kevin Barry, G	80	Reche Caldwell, WR	51	Rocky Calmus, OLB	130	Michael Coleman, WR	52	Phil Dawson, K	157	Luther Elliss, DT	104	Ben Friedman, G	77	Shayne Graham, K	159
William Barlee, CB	139	Corey Bradford, WR	50	Dan Campbell, TE	57	Reggie Coleman, OT	70	Percy Ellsworth, S	153	Byron Frisch, DE	97	Byron Frisch, DE	97	Bill Gramatica, K	157
Eric Barton, OLB	127	Ronnie Bradford, S	151					Bert Emanuel, WR	50	Scott Frost, S	154	Martin Gramatica, K	156		

Charles Grant, DE99	Johnnie Harris, S152	Chris Hope, S155	DeVeren Johnson, WR52	Terry Kirby, KR163	Mike Lucky, TE58	Travis McGriff, WR50	Larry Moore, C84
DeLawrence Grant, DE96	Napoleon Harris, OLB130	Brad Hopkins, OT63	Doug Johnson, QB18	Levon Kirkland, ILB115	Chris Luzar, TE60	Chris McIntosh, OT66	Marty Moore, ILB118
Deon Grant, S149	Nick Harris, P161	Joe Horn, WR40	Ellis Johnson, DT103	Travis Kirschke, DT109	Todd Lyght, CB137	Damion McIntosh, OT65	Rob Moore, WR49
Ernest Grant, DT110	Walt Harris, CB133	Mike Houghton, G80	Eric Johnson, TE55	Desmond Kitchings, WR50	Keith Lyle, S151	Kareem McKenzie, OT67	Brian Moorman, P162
Orantes Grant, OLB127	Lloyd Harrison, CB143	Kevin Houser, LS164	J.J. Johnson, FB36	Jon Kitna, QB16	Rick Lyle, DE93	Keith McKenzie, DE97	Sean Moran, DE95
Billy Granville, ILB119	Marvin Harrison, WR38	T.J. Houshmandzadeh, WR47	Jerry Johnson, DT111	Kurt Kittner, QB20	Ben Lynch, C86	Mike McKenzie, CB133	Frank Moreau, RB30
Paul Grasmanis, DT108	Rodney Harrison, S146	Chris Hovan, DT103	Joe Johnson, DE89	Jim Kleinsasser, TE56	John Lynch, S145	Dennis McKinley, FB37	Earthwind Moreland, CB143
Jeff Grau, LS164	Tyrea Howard, ILB119	Darren Howard, DE90	Kevin Johnson, WR42	Adrian Klemm, OT68	Billy Lyon, DE95	Jeremy McKinney, G77	Zeke Moreno, OLB128
Bobby Gray, S155	Jeff Hartings, C82	Desmond Howard, KR162	Keyshawn Johnson, WR39	Bryan Knight, OLB130	J.P. Machado, C85	Seth McKinney, C86	Dan Morgan, ILB115
Chris Gray, G75	Shaunard Harts, S152	Reggie Howard, CB143	Kyle Johnson, FB37	Marcus Knight, WR50	Stacey Mack, RB26	Steve McKinney, C83	Don Morgan, S154
Ahman Green, RB23	Edgerton Hartwell, ILB117	John Howell, S154	Lee Johnson, P162	Sammy Knight, S146	David Macklin, CB139	Bryant McKinney, OT70	Quincy Morgan, WR45
Barrett Green, OLB124	Justin Hartwig, G80	Bobby Hoying, QB16	Leon Johnson, RB27	Tom Knight, CB137	Tommy Maddox, QB17	Ronald McKinnon, ILB116	Aric Morris, S151
Darrell Green, CB137	Matt Hasselbeck, QB15	Brook Huard, QB17	Patrick Johnson, WR46	Micah Knoch, P161	Sam Madison, CB131	James McKnight, WR48	Maurice Morris, RB31
E.G. Green, WR50	Jeff Hatch, OT70	Damon Huard, QB17	Raylee Johnson, DE91	Aaron Kopp, G79	Joe Maese, LS164	Mike McMahon, QB16	Rob Morris, ILB116
Howard Green, DT112	Matthew Hatchette, WR47	Chris Hudson, S154	Riall Johnson, OLB129	Ken Kocher, DT112	Joel Makovicka, FB34	Randy McMichael, TE50	Sammy Morris, RB28
Jacquez Green, WR45	Tim Hauck, S154	Orlando Huff, OLB128	Rob Johnson, QB16	Ross Kolodziej, DT112	Josh Mallard, DE99	Todd McMillon, CB143	Sylvester Morris, WR46
Jarvis Green, DE99	Artrell Hawkins, CB136	Corey Hulsey, G79	Ron Johnson, WR52	Rob Konrad, FB35	Westly Mallard, OLB130	Kirk McMullen, TE59	Harold Morrow, FB35
Mike Green, RB30	Duane Hawthorne, CB137	Deon Humphrey, OLB129	Rudi Johnson, RB30	Scott Kowalkowski, OLB129	Kris Mangum, TE57	Donovan McNabb, QB17	Chad Morton, RB30
Mike Green, S149	Michael Hawthorne, CB141	Cletidus Hunt, DT102	Ted Johnson, ILB116	Brian Kozlowski, TE59	Patrick Mannely, LS163	Steve McNair, QB11	Johnnie Morton, WR40
Ray Green, CB142	Chris Hayes, S152	Javin Hunter, WR52	Tre' Johnson, G76	Dan Kreider, FB35	Peyton Manning, QB11	Ryan McNeil, CB134	Kelvin Moses, ILB119
Trent Green, OLB15	Donald Hayes, WR44	Ralph Hunter, CB144	Lance Johnstone, DE94	Olvin Kreutz, C81	Cade McNown, QB17	Cade McNown, QB17	Keith Moss, WR38
Victor Green, S149	Herb Haygood, WR52	Richard Huntley, RB30	Doug Jolley, TE60	Clint Kriewaldt, OLB127	B. Manumaleuna, TE58	R.W. McQuarters, CB132	Santana Moss, WR47
William Green, RB37	Vernon Haynes, FB37	Todd Husak, QB18	Damon Jones, TE59	Ryan Kuehl, LS164	Olindo Mare, C156	Johnny McWilliams, TE58	Eric Moulds, WR39
M. Greenwood, OLB125	A. Haynesworth, DT112	Steve Hutchinson, G74	Daryl Jones, WR52	Justin Kurpekis, OLB129	Brook Marion, S149	Adam Meadows, OT63	Muhsin Muhammad, WR40
Donovan Greer, CB139	Reggie Hayward, DE96	Trevor Insley, WR51	Dhani Jones, OLB126	Zak Kustok, QB20	Torrance Marshall, ILB117	Rondell Mealey, RB30	Edwin Mulitalo, G77
Kelly Gregg, DT106	Ennis Haywood, RB31	Junior Ioane, DT109	Fred Jones, OLB129	Jason Kyle, LS164	Cecil Martin, FB34	Brad Meester, G72	Frank Murphy, KR163
Chris Greisen, QB18	Todd Heap, TE55	Ken Irvin, CB138	Freddie Jones, TE53	Corbin Lacina, G76	Curtis Martin, RB22	Rob Meier, DE96	Booby Myers, S152
Nick Greisen, ILB119	Ronnie Heard, S154	Heath Irwin, G79	Greg Jones, OLB127	Anthony Lake, DE99	David Te'ena, TE58	Shad Meier, TE59	Leonard Myers, CB143
Shane Grice, G80	Garrison Heath, RB24	Qadry Ismail, WR43	John Jones, TE58	Carnell Lake, S153	Jamar Martin, FB37	Richard Mercier, C85	Michael Myers, DT108
Brian Grice, QB11	Rodney Heath, CB139	Rocket Ismail, WR44	Levi Jones, OT70	Sean Landeta, P160	Jamie Martin, QB17	Than Merrill, S155	Chris Naeole, G75
Cornelius Griffin, DT101	B. Heffner-Liddiard, LS164	Steve Israel, CB142	Marcus Jones, DE91	Max Lane, OT69	Ahmad Merritt, WR106	Ahmad Merritt, WR106	Tom Nalen, C82
Robert Griffith, S147	Steve Heiden, TE57	Jabari Issa, DE95	Marvin Jones, ILB116	Kenard Lang, DE93	Tee Martin, QB19	Eric Metcalf, WR50	Craig Nail, QB20
Cliff Groce, FB37	Keith Heinrich, TE60	Corey Ivy, CB143	Mike Jones, OLB129	Jevon Langford, DE96	Mike Maslowski, OLB127	Terrence Metcalf, OT70	Keyon Nash, CB144
Mike Gruttadauria, C83	Eric Helms, G80	Larry Izzy, ILB118	Reggie Jones, WR50	Leif Larsen, DT105	Derrick Mason, WR42	Ray Mickens, CB137	Hannibal Nawies, OLB126
Andre Gurode, C86	Jamie Henderson, CB143	Arnold Jackson, WR50	Robert Jones, ILB117	Kwame Lassiter, S146	Eddie Mason, OLB128	Willie Middlebrooks, CB142	Lorenzo Neal, FB34
Sean Guthrie, DE99	John Henderson, DT112	Brad Jackson, OLB126	Rod Jones, G77	Ty Law, CB132	Chris Massey, LS64	Frank Middleton, G77	Steve Neal, OT69
Brook Gutierrez, C85	William Henderson, FB32	Curtis Jackson, WR50	Tebucky Jones, S147	Ryan Leaf, QB18	Chris Mathews, DT69	John Miley, DE98	Larry Neal, RB31
Adam Haayer, OT69	Tommy Hendricks, ILB119	Darrell Jackson, WR44	Terry Jones, TE60	Ben Leber, OLB130	Kevin Mathis, CB137	Itula Mill, TE58	Joe Nedney, K158
Drew Haddad, WR50	Anthony Henry, CB137	Dexter Jackson, S149	Thomas Jones, RB24	Clarence LeBlanc, S155	Terance Mathis, WR48	Ahmad Miller, DE99	Dan Neil, G74
Clark Haggans, OLB126	Leonard Henry, RB31	Grady Jackson, DT102	Walter Jones, OT62	Shane Lecher, P160	Shane Matthews, QB81	Billy Miller, TE59	Ryan Neilson, DE99
Az-Zahir Hakim, WR45	Travis Henry, RB24	James Jackson, RB26	Willie Jones, OT69	Charles Lee, WR50	Bubba Miller, C81	Bubba Miller, C81	Jim Nelson, OLB127
Jermaine Haley, DT109	Craig Hentrich, P159	John Jackson, QB18	Andrew Jordan, TE59	Lance Legree, DT111	Jermaine Mayberry, G75	Fred Miller, OT67	Jamar Nesbit, G75
Barry Hall, DE79	Jimmy Herndon, OT70	John Jackson, OT68	LaMont Jordan, RB28	Matt Lehr, C84	Alonzo Mayes, TE56	Jamir Miller, OLB121	Jeremy Newberry, C81
Carlos Hall, G99	Steve Herndon, C78	LaDarius Jackson, DE98	Ashley Jordan, G78	Matt Lehr, WR51	Brad Maynard, P160	Jim Miller, QB142	Keith Newman, WR122
Corey Hall, S155	Kim Herring, S147	Natie Jackson, WR50	Randy Jordan, RB28	Cleo Lemon, QB20	Lee Mays, WR52	Josh Miller, P160	Richard Newsome, S154
Corey Hall, S149	Chris Hetherington, FB36	Nate Jackson, WR52	Elvis Joseph, RB27	Paris Leon, OLB129	Jason McAddley, WR52	Freddie Milloy, S145	Kendall Newton, WR52
Dante Hall, KR163	Josh Heupel, OLB19	Sheldon Jackson, TE58	Eric Joyce, CB144	Matt Lepis, OT64	Fred McAfee, RB31	Lawdy Milons, CB82	Ned Nguyen, ILB114
James Hall, DE98	Artis Hicks, OT70	Terry Jackson, FB35	Matt Joyce, OT66	Leon Lett, DT112	Chris McAlister, CB135	Marvin Minnis, WR46	Hardy Nickerson, ILB117
John Hall, K157	Eric Hicks, DE93	Tyoka Jackson, DT109	Bhahow Jue, CB139	Dorsey Levens, RB26	Deuce McAllister, RB25	Kory Minor, OLB129	John Nix, DT110
Lamont Hall, TE59	Skip Hicks, RB26	Waverly Jackson, OT68	Joe Jurevics, CB46	Isaiah Leverette, DE98	Tod McBride, CB141	Travis Minor, RB26	Mathias Nkwenti, OT69
Lemanski Hall, OLB126	Charles Hill, DT112	Willie Jackson, WR44	Isaiah Kacyvinski, ILB118	Chad Lewis, TE54	Gerald McBurrows, S150	Barry Minter, OLB129	Kaulana Noa, G80
Travis Hall, DT103	Darrell Hill, WR52	Kendyl Jacox, C84	Dave Kadeola, DT141	Damione Lewis, DT104	Kevin McCadam, S155	Mike Minter, S147	Brandon Noble, DT106
Bob Hallen, G75	Kahili Hill, WR52	Edgerrin James, RB22	Ndukwe Kalu, OLB128	Jamal Lewis, RB24	Ed McCaffrey, WR40	Paul Miranda, CB143	Dennis Norman, OT70
Darren Hambrick, OLB129	Matt Hill, OT70	Jeno James, G76	Tory James, CB139	James Lewis, S155	Damenieron McCants, WR50	Rick Mirer, QB18	Moran Norris, FB37
Kenyon Hambrick, WR50	Raion Hill, S154	Michael Jameson, S153	Aaron Kampman, DT112	Jeff Lewis, QB17	Keenan McCordell, WR40	Anthony Mitchell, S152	Dennis Northcutt, WR48
Troy Hambrick, RB27	Renaldo Hill, CB141	Quentin Jammer, CB143	Morgan Kane, FB37	Jermaine Lewis, KR162	Justin McCareins, WR49	Brandon Mitchell, DE92	David Nugent, DE97
Ben Hamilton, C85	Ike Hilliard, WR40	Sebastian Janikowski, K157	John Kasay, K157	Kevin Lewis, OLB129	Norris McCleary, DT111	Brian Mitchell, KR163	Tom Nutten, G74
Bobby Hamilton, DE92	John Hilliard, DE97	John Jensen, OT62	Kevin Kasper, WR49	Michael Lewis, S155	Dexter McClean, CB135	Donald Mitchell, CB140	Chukie Nwokorie, DE95
Joe Hamilton, QB19	Jimmy Hitchcock, CB142	Craig Jarrett, P162	Jevon Kearse, DE88	Michael Lewis, KR163	Todd McClure, C84	Freddie Mitchell, WR45	Roman Oben, OT66
Keith Hamilton, OT103	N. Hobgood-Chittick, DT111	Ed Jasper, DT105	Michael Keathley, G76	Mo Lewis, OLB123	Andy McCallum, C83	Jeff Mitchell, C82	Neil O'Donnell, QB17
Casey Hampton, DT103	Russ Hochstein, G80	Patrick Jeffers, WR46	Curtis Keaton, RB28	Ray Lewis, ILB113	Quentin McCord, WR50	Keith Mitchell, OLB122	Matt O'Dwyer, G76
Jermaine Hampton, S154	Sedrick Hodge, OLB126	Joseph Jefferson, CB144	Brett Kelsel, DE99	Victor Leyva, G79	Josh McCown, QB20	Kevin Mitchell, ILB117	Kendrick Office, DE98
William Hampton, CB143	James Hodgins, FB34	Shawn Jefferson, WR44	John Keith, S151	Matt Light, OT65	Iwory McCoy, DE99	Mal Mitchell, CB144	Willie Offord, S155
Norman Hand, DT101	Kelly Holcomb, QB17	Billy Jenkins, S152	Brian Kelly, CB137	Rian Lindell, K158	Fred McCrary, FB36	Pete Mitchell, TE57	Eric Ogboogu, DE96
Karl Hankton, WR51	Robert Holcombe, RB28	DeRon Jenkins, CB141	Eric Kelly, CB138	Everett Lindsay, OT66	Michael McCrary, DE91	Tywan Mitchell, TE58	Jeff Ogden, WR50
Ryan Hannam, TE60	Curtis Holden, ILB119	Kerry Jenkins, G72	Jeff Kelly, QB20	Leonard Little, DE90	Scott McCready, WR51	Matt Mitrone, DT112	Jonathan Ogden, OT61
Chris Hanson, P161	Warrick Holdman, OLB123	Kris Jenkins, DT105	Lewis Kelly, OT69	Chris Liwinski, G76	Marlon McCree, S148	Kenny Mingo, DE93	Adevala Ogundipe, DE97
Jason Hanson, K157	John Holecak, ILB118	MarTay Jenkins, WR47	Maurice Kelly, S154	Aaron Lockett, WR52	George McCullough, CB143	John Mobley, OLB122	Ifeanyi Ohalet, S153
Byron Hanspard, RB30	Vonnie Holliday, DE119	Ronney Jenkins, KR162	Pete Kendall, G72	Kevin Lockett, WR47	Dayton McCutcheon, CB135	Chris Mohr, P161	Shaun O'Hara, C84
Patrick Hape, TE59	Mike Hollis, K157	Brandon Jennings, S153	Kenoy Kennedy, OT148	Radell Logan, DE98	Ed McDaniel, ILB119	Mike Mohring, DT110	Onome Ojo, WR51
Kevin Hardy, OLB123	Jabari Holloway, TE59	Brian Jennings, LS164	Lincoln Kennedy, OT63	Michael Logan, S152	Enmanuel McDaniel, CB143	Alex Molden, CB140	Chike Okefor, DE95
Terry Hardy, TE59	Rashed Holman, CB141	Jonas Jennings, OT66	Eddie Kennison, WR46	Mike Long, C86	Jeremy McDaniel, WR49	Mario Monds, DT111	Chucky Okobi, C85
Alan Harper, DT112	Rob Holmberg, OLB129	Travis Jervey, RB30	Patrick Kerney, OLB121	Ryan Longwell, K158	Sean McDermott, LS164	Shannon Money, G80	Chris Oldham, S154
Nick Harper, CB143	Earl Holmes, ILB115	James Jett, WR47	Isaac Keys, ILB119	Andre Lott, CB144	Stockar McDougle, OT66	Quincy Monk, OLB130	Don O'Leary, LS164
Joey Harrington, QB20	Jaret Holmes, K160	John Jett, P160	Danny Knight, K159	David Love, TE59	Anthony McFarland, DT100	Derrius Monroe, DE99	Brack Oliver, FB37
Antwan Harris, S152	Kenny Holmes, DE93	Brad Johnson, QB14	Terry Killens, OLB129	David Love, G78	Scott McGarrahan, S152	Rod Monroe, TE57	Benji Olson, G77
Bernardo Harris, ILB119	Priest Holmes, RB23	Bryan Johnson, FB37	Amar King, WR49	Omare Lowe, CB144	Tony McGee, TE57	Joe Montgomery, RB30	Andre O'Neal, OLB129
Corey Harris, CB142	Torry Holt, WR46	Chad Johnson, WR46	Lamar King, DE91	Justin Lucas, S154	Willie McGinest, DE93	Damon Moore, OLB130	Deltha O'Neal, CB133
Corey Harris, S149	Derek Homer, RB31	Charles Johnson, WR50	Shaun King, QB16	Ken Lucas, CB136	Chester McGlockton, DT106	Damon Moore, S153	Donnie O'Neal, WR52
Jackie Harris, TE59	Brad Hoover, FB35	Dennis Johnson, DE99	Erron Kinney, TE55	Ray Lucas, QB16	Jon McGraw, S155	Dave Moore, TE55	Jerry Ostroski, G76
					Reggie McGrew, DT110	Herman Moore, WR49	J.T. O'Sullivan, QB20

Wes Ours, FB37	Pierson Prioleau, S152	Frank Romero, G80	Aaron Shea, TE56	Luke Staley, RB31	Juqua Thomas, DE98	Ramon Walker, CB144	Grant Williams, OT68
Will Overstreet, OLB130	Kelvin Pritchett, DT106	Sage Rosenfelds, QB19	Daimon Shelton, FB35	Donte' Stallworth, WR51	Kiwauke Thomas, CB140	Rod Walker, DT110	Jamal Williams, DT104
John Owens, TE60	Stanley Pritchett, FB37	Mike Rosenthal, OT68	L.J. Shelton, OT64	John Stamper, DE99	Mark Thomas, DE98	Wesley Walls, TE54	James Williams, WR50
Rich Owens, DE95	Trevor Proehl, WR47	Adrian Ross, OLB126	Gannon Shepherd, OT69	Chad Stanley, P162	Orlando Thomas, S154	Chris Walsh, WR49	James Williams, OT62
Terrell Owens, WR39	Ricky Pryce, DE31	Derek Ross, CB143	Jacoby Shepherd, CB140	Jason Starkey, C86	Randy Thomas, G74	Ken Walter, P160	Jay Williams, DE94
Orlando Pace, OT61	Mike Pucillo, G80	Oliver Ross, G76	Lito Sheppard, CB143	Duane Starks, CB134	Robert Thomas, FB36	Tyson Walter, OT70	Jimmy Williams, CB142
Solomon Page, OT63	Jeb Putzier, TE60	Allen Rossum, KR162	Will Shields, G74	Aaron Steckler, RB30	Robert Thomas, OLB130	Troy Walters, KR163	Josh Williams, DT104
Melvin Paige, OT70	Tom Ropen, P160	Mark Royals, P161	Marcel Shipp, RB28	Glen Steele, DT108	Tra Thomas, OT62	Zack Walz, OLB130	K.D. Williams, OLB130
Anton Palepol, DE99	Zack Quaccia, G80	Raleigh Roundtree, G79	Jeremy Shockey, TE60	Markus Steele, OLB126	Zach Thomas, ILB113	Tim Wansley, CB144	Karl Williams, WR49
Jesse Palmer, QB19	Shelton Quarles, ILB116	Robert Royal, TE60	Brandon Short, OLB123	Jamain Stephens, OT68	Jeff Thomason, TE56	Chad Ward, G79	Kevin Williams, S154
Anthony Parker, CB143	Jonathan Quinn, QB18	Mark Royals, P161	Dainon Sidney, CB140	Travis Stephens, RB31	Derrius Thompson, WR50	Dedric Ward, WR50	Louis Williams, C86
Glenn Parker, G79	Mike Quinn, QB19	Orpheus Roye, DT105	Eliot Silvers, OT66	Todd Steussie, OT63	Donnel Thompson, ILB119	Hines Ward, WR40	Maurice Williams, OT65
Larry Parker, WR48	Casey Rabach, C85	Mike Rucker, DE91	Anthony Simmons, OLB120	Jerramy Stevens, TE60	Kevin Thompson, QB19	Eric Warfield, CB136	Mike Williams, OT70
Riddick Parker, DT111	Nell Rackers, K158	Dwayne Rudd, OLB123	Brian Simmons, ILB114	Matt Stevens, S150	Lamont Thompson, S155	Dedric Ward, WR50	Moe Williams, RB27
Vaughn Parker, OT66	Derek Rackley, LS164	Tim Ruddy, C85	Jason Simmons, CB140	D.Stevens, OLB130	Michael Thompson, OT67	Gerard Warren, DT101	Nick Williams, FB36
Tony Parrish, S147	Wall Rainer, ILB115	Gary Ruegamer, G78	Kendall Simmons, G80	James Stewart, RB24	Raynoch Thompson, OLB125	Lamont Warren, RB103	Pat Williams, DT103
Patrick Pass, FB35	Dominic Raiola, C83	Olando Ruff, ILB116	Sam Simmons, WR52	Kordell Stewart, QB12	Josh Thornhill, ILB119	Steve Warren, DT104	Ricky Williams, RB23
Wes Pate, OLB20	Ken-Yon Rambo, WR50	Mike Rumph, CB144	Tony Simmons, WR51	Matt Stewart, ILB118	David Thornton, OLB130	Peter Warrick, WR45	Rodney Williams, P162
Jerome Pathon, WR44	Patrick Ramsey, QB20	Cliff Russell, WR52	Corey Simon, DT100	Quincy Stewart, ILB119	John Thornton, DT104	Damon Washington, RB30	Dee Williams, C86
DeWayne Patmon, S154	John Randle, DT101	Mark Simoneau, OLB126	Russell Simon, TE59	James Thrash, WR50	D.Washington, CB135	Roosevelt Williams, CB144	Roy Williams, S155
David Patten, WR44	Antwan Randle El, WR52	Barry Sims, OT62	Ryan Sims, DT112	Travares Tillman, S153	Keith Washington, DE97	Shaun Williams, S145	Shawn Williams, S145
Marcus Patton, ILB116	Derrick Ransom, DT108	Johnny Rutledge, ILB118	Kaseem Sinceno, TE60	Robbie Toback, C84	Patrick Washington, FB37	Tank Williams, DT104	Tyrone Williams, CB135
Lonie Paxton, LS164	Wally Rasby, TE58	Rod Rutledge, TE59	Michael Sinclair, DE98	Clint Stoenen, QB19	Ted Washington, DT101	Todd Williams, DT104	Wally Williams, G75
Seth Payne, DT103	Saleem Rasheed, OLB130	John St. Clair, OT66	A.Singleton, OLB126	Barry Stokes, G75	Todd Washington, C86	Donald Willis, G80	Willie Williams, CB137
Mike Pearson, OT70	Tim Rattay, QB83	Brad St. Louis, LS164	Peter Simon, OLB127	J.J. Stokes, WR46	Brian Waters, G74	Adrian Wilson, S151	Willie Williams, CB137
Doug Pederson, QB17	Cory Raymer, C83	Ephraim Salaam, OT66	Chris Slade, OLB129	Brandon Stoenen, QB19	Chris Watson, CB141	Reggie Wayne, WR45	Ricky Waters, RB26
Justin Peelle, TE60	Monte Reager, DE98	Joe Salave'a, DT110	T.J. Slaughter, OT124	Michael Stone, CB141	Mao Tosi, DE97	Fred Weary, G80	Nate Wayne, OLB124
Rodney Peete, QB20	Chris Redman, QB16	Tarek Saleh, OLB129	Jermy Slechts, DT52	Ron Stone, G74	Reggie Wayne, WR45	Fred Weary, G80	Antonio Wilson, OLB129
Sitpupe Peke, C86	J.R. Redmond, RB27	Chris Samuels, ILB119	David Sloan, TE54	Omar Stoutmire, S150	Fred Weary, G80	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Cedrick Wilson, WR50
Chad Pennington, QB18	Ed Reed, S155	Chris Sanders, WR49	Bob Slowkowski, TE60	Matt Stover, K57	Fred Weary, G80	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Julius Peppers, DE98	Jake Reed, WR49	Darnell Sanders, TE60	Torrance Small, WR50	Michael Strahan, DE88	Fred Weary, G80	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Jason Wiltz, DT111
Ed Perry, TE58	Jason Reed, DT110	Frank Sanders, WR44	Aaron Smith, DE90	Tai Streets, WR49	Adam Treu, C84	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Jason Perry, S153	Josh Reed, WR51	Lewis Sanders, CB140	Akili Smith, OT16	Mac Strong, FB35	Larry Triplett, DT112	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Jason Wiltz, DT111
Todd Perry, G79	Ike Reese, OLB127	Scott Sanderson, OT69	Brady Smith, DE92	Marcus Stroud, DT106	Rex Tucker, G72	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Christian Peter, DT111	Izell Reese, S151	Terrell Sands, DT111	Brent Smith, OT67	Dana Strzyski, P161	Ross Tucker, G80	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Jason Wiltz, DT111
Scott Peters, C86	Tutan Reyes, OT69	O.J. Santiago, TE59	Bruce Smith, DE92	Alex Sulstorf, G79	Ryan Tucker, OT63	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Adrian Peterson, RB31	Jamal Reynolds, DE96	Sekou Sanyika, OLB129	Darrin Smith, OLB125	Marques Tuiasosopo, QB15	Marques Tuiasosopo, QB15	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Julian Peterson, OLB122	Coby Rhinehart, CB142	Warren Sapp, DT100	Derek Smith, ILB116	Joe Tuipala, ILB118	Joe Tuipala, ILB118	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Mike Peterson, OLB122	Dan Rhoads, RB25	Jeff Saturday, C83	Detron Smith, FB37	Maugaula Tuitele, OLB129	Maugaula Tuitele, OLB129	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Todd Peterson, K158	Alan Ricard, FB37	Dwight Sauerbrun, P160	Dwight Smith, CB138	Jerame Tuman, TE56	Jerame Tuman, TE56	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Will Peterson, CB138	Jerry Rice, WR40	Cory Sauter, QB19	Enmitt Smith, RB25	Tom Tupa, P162	Tom Tupa, P162	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Luke Pettigout, OT62	Ron Rice, S154	Talence Sawyer, DE96	Hunter Smith, P161	Matt Turk, P160	Matt Turk, P160	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Perry Phenix, S154	Simon Rice, DE89	John Schiaff, OT70	Jeff Smith, C84	Jeff Turley, OT62	Jeff Turley, OT62	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Roman Phifer, OLB122	Kris Richard, CB144	Jake Schifano, WR52	Jimmy Smith, WR39	Reggie Swinton, KR162	Nate Turner, WR50	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Jermaine Phillips, S155	Damien Richardson, S151	John Schlecht, DT111	Justin Smith, DE91	Sam Sword, ILB118	Melvin Tuten, OT69	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Ryan Phillips, OLB126	Kyle Richardson, P161	Kerry Schlesinger, FB34	Kenny Smith, DT109	Dave Szott, G77	Keith Tytki, G77	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Ryan Pickett, DT105	Tony Richardson, FB34	Mike Schneek, LS164	Lamar Smith, RB26	Ed Ta'amu, G80	Jeff Ulbrich, OLB125	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Antonio Pierce, OLB127	Wade Richey, K159	Aaron Schobel, DE92	Larry Smith, DT110	Joe Tafoya, DE98	Artie Ulmer, ILB119	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Dwayne Pierce, G80	Michael Ricks, TE59	Mark Schobel, TE96	John Tait, OT64	Regan Upshaw, DE92	Bryant Westbrook, CB134	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Pete Pierson, OT68	Jay Riemersma, TE55	Bill Schroeder, WR42	Marquis Smith, S154	Barron Tanner, DT106	Michael Westbrook, WR43	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Zach Piller, G75	Karon Riley, DE97	Lance Schulters, S146	Marvel Smith, OT64	Maa Tanuvasa, DT112	Eric Westmoreland, OLB128	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Todd Pinkston, WR46	Victor Riley, OT66	Kurt Schulz, S153	Maurice Smith, RB28	Robert Tate, CB139	Tyrone Wheatley, RB26	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Kavika Pittman, DE97	John Ritchie, FB36	Brad Sciolli, DE93	Otis Smith, CB136	Mark Tauscher, OT65	Damen Wheeler, CB142	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Michael Pittman, RB25	Marco Rivera, G72	John Scooby, RB31	Paul Smith, RB28	Josh Taves, DE97	Larry Whigham, S152	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Chester Pitts, G80	Marcellus Rivers, TE59	Cedric Scott, DE98	Chad Scott, CB135	Ben Taylor, OLB130	Clayton White, OLB129	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Scott Player, P159	Willie Roaf, OT92	Darnay Scott, WR43	Darnay Scott, WR43	Bobby Taylor, CB132	Dez White, WR47	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Anthony Pleasant, DE92	Barret Robbins, C82	Gary Scott, WR50	Rod Smith, WR39	Chester Taylor, RB31	James White, RB27	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Ahmed Plummer, CB132	Barret Robbins, C82	Gregory Scott, DE99	Steve Smith, CB144	Fred Taylor, RB24	Steve White, DE96	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Jake Plummer, CB14	Bernard Robertson, G78	Lynn Scott, S154	Steve Smith, CB144	Henry Taylor, DT110	Willie Whitehead, DE95	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Owen Pochman, K158	Marcus Robertson, S148	Tony Scott, CB143	Terrelle Smith, FB34	Jason Taylor, DE88	Bob Whitford, OT63	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Brian Poli-Dixon, WR52	Tyrone Robertson, DT111	Travis Scott, G80	Travian Smith, OLB128	John Taylor, DT112	Brandon Whiting, DT106	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Carlos Polk, ILB118	Bryan Robinson, DE91	Tracy Scroggins, DE98	Fred Smoot, CB135	Shannon Taylor, OLB128	Josh Whitman, TE58	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
DaShon Polk, OLB129	Damien Robinson, S150	Leon Seary, G78	Tim Snider, FB37	Travis Taylor, WR44	Alvis Whitted, WR50	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Marcus Pollard, TE53	Eddie Robinson, OLB125	Corey Sears, DE98	Justin Snow, LS164	Greg Teague, S154	Bernard Whittington, DT108	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Tommy Polley, OLB124	Jeff Robinson, LS164	Justin Seau, OLB121	Tim Sorensen, S154	Trey Teague, OT63	Jason Whittle, G77	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Keith Poole, WR49	Koren Robinson, WR44	Junior Seder, K159	Jerald Sowell, FB37	Daryl Terrell, OT69	Cach Wiegert, OT65	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Marquez Pope, S153	Marcus Robinson, WR42	Jason Sehorn, CB133	Amegis Spearman, OLB127	David Terrell, WR43	Mike Vrabell, OLB125	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Monsanto Pope, DT112	Roderick Robinson, QB19	Tommy Temple, G77	Jason Spence, OT66	Chris Terry, OT64	John Wade, C86	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Robert Porter, DE89	G. Robinson-Randall, OT65	Kato Serwanga, CB143	Jimmy Spencer, CB141	Tim Terry, OLB129	Todd Wade, OT65	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Alvin Porter, CB142	Derrick Rodgers, OLB124	Bobby Setzer, DE98	Paul Spicer, DE97	Vinny Testaverde, QB14	Michael Wahle, G74	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Daryl Porter, CB140	Maurice Rodriguez, OLB130	Rich Seubert, G78	Cameron Spikes, OLB121	Keith Thibodeaux, CB143	Fred Wakefield, DE94	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Jerry Porter, WR48	Charlie Rogers, KR163	Richard Seymour, DT102	Greg Spires, DE95	John Thierry, OLB124	Bracey Walker, S154	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Clinton Portis, RB31	Nick Rogers, OLB130	Sam Shade, S150	Brandon Spriggs, OT68	Adalio Thomas, OLB127	John Walker, S149	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Jeff Posey, OLB129	Sam Rogers, OLB128	Kevin Shaffer, DT70	Marcus Spriggs, OT68	Anthony Thomas, RB24	Darwin Walker, DT111	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Hank Poteat, CB140	Shawn Rogers, DT105	Shannon Sharpe, TE53	Darren Sharper, S146	Brian Thomas, DE99	Aeneas Williams, CB132	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Carl Powell, DT111	Victor Rogers, OT70	Darren Sharper, S146	Shawn Springs, CB132	Dave Thomas, CB142	Bobbie Williams, G80	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Travis Prentice, RB31	Samari Rolle, CB133	Shawn Springs, CB132	Charles Stackhouse, FB37	Edward Thomas, OLB129	Boo Williams, TE59	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Marcus Price, OT69	Mark Roman, S150	Bobby Shaw, WR46	Brenden Stai, G74	Fred Thomas, CB139	Brian Williams, OLB129	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Peerless Price, WR42	Bill Romanowski, OLB122	Josh Shaw, DT112	Duce Staley, RB26	Hollis Thomas, DT103	Brian Williams, CB144	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
Shawn Price, DE98		Terrance Shaw, CB140		Jason Thomas, OT69	Brock Williams, CB143	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95
					Chad Williams, S155	Antonio Wilson, OLB129	Reinard Wilson, DE95

They Led The Way Back Then...



INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED FOR HAVING THE BEST TEASER ODDS IN THE INDUSTRY

1-800-921-BETS_{2 3 8 7}

www.betmill.com

VOID WHERE PROHIBITED BY LAW

ENDORSED BY
OSGA
Offshore Gaming Association

MEMBER OF
WAGERMALL.COM
A Bettors Universe



We Lead the Way Today!

Leading the Offshore Sportsbook Industry Since 1995

***Generous Bonus
Incentives For All Of
Our New Customers***

MILLENNIUM
SPORTS
betmill.com

Where Winning Pays!

High-performance is such an understatement.
New body-heat activated **Degree Gel.**



kicks-in
in the **CLUTCH**